

**GOLD  
KEY**

**55 DAYS AT PEKING**

**NOW ONLY 12c**

10081-309

# 55 DAYS at PEKING

Besieged by Boxer terrorists, the  
small forces of eleven rival nations  
unite to make a heroic stand!

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SAMUEL BRONSTON presents  
**CHARLTON HESTON**  
**AVA GARDNER**  
**DAVID NIVEN**  
IN  
**"55 DAYS AT PEKING"**  
Original Screenplay by  
**PHILIP YORDAN** and **BERNARD GORDON**  
Directed by **NICHOLAS RAY** Produced by **SAMUEL BRONSTON**  
70mm Super Technirama Technicolor®



"Kill and burn!" shout the Boxers, the rebellious Chinese, who attack the foreign legations at once peaceful Peking!



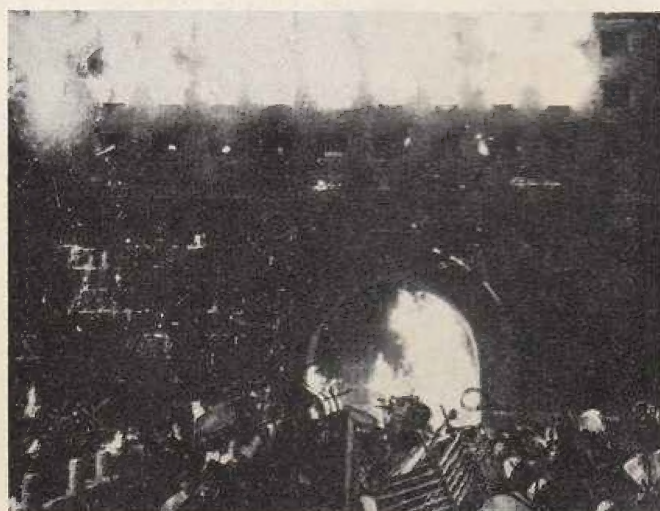
One by one the legations are put to the torch! Foot by foot the compound is defended by its men, women and children!



Stationed at Peking is Marine Major Matt Lewis, an officer in the hopelessly outnumbered and surrounded garrison.



As the siege wears on day after day, thinning the defenders' ranks, Major Lewis daringly tries to escape to go for help.

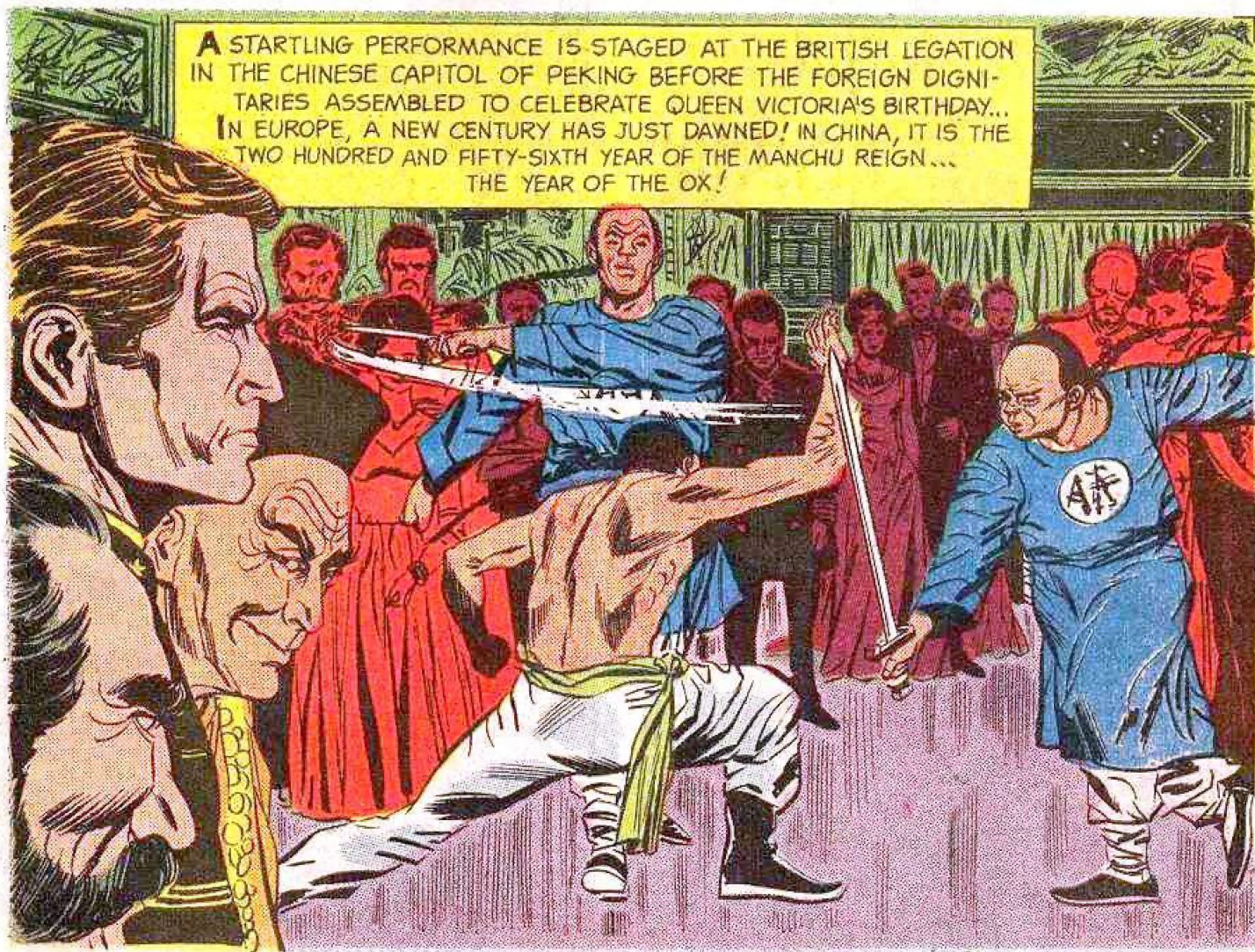


But his mission fails! Returning to Peking, he finds the main gate ablaze and the Boxers on the brink of a grim victory!



# 55 DAYS at PEKING

A STARTLING PERFORMANCE IS STAGED AT THE BRITISH LEGATION IN THE CHINESE CAPITOL OF PEKING BEFORE THE FOREIGN DIGNITARIES ASSEMBLED TO CELEBRATE QUEEN VICTORIA'S BIRTHDAY... IN EUROPE, A NEW CENTURY HAS JUST DAWNED! IN CHINA, IT IS THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE MANCHU REIGN... THE YEAR OF THE OX!



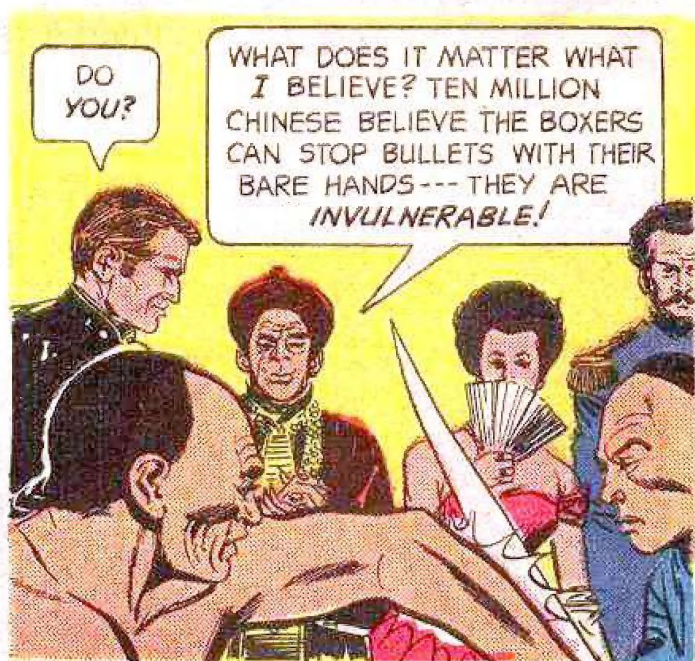
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT STRONG FOR THE LADIES, PRINCE TUAN?

PERHAPS! SOME PEOPLE FIND THE BOXERS QUITE OVERWHELMING! OUR COUNTRY PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE DIVINELY PROTECTED!

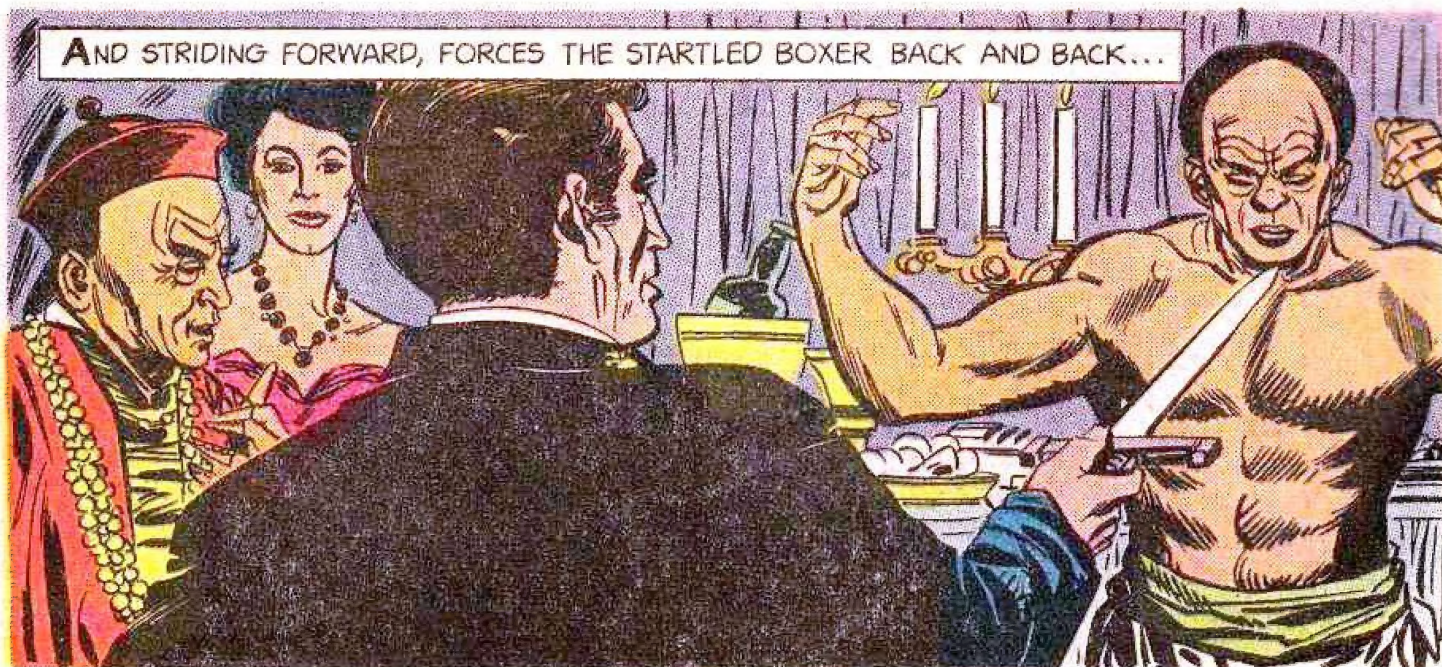
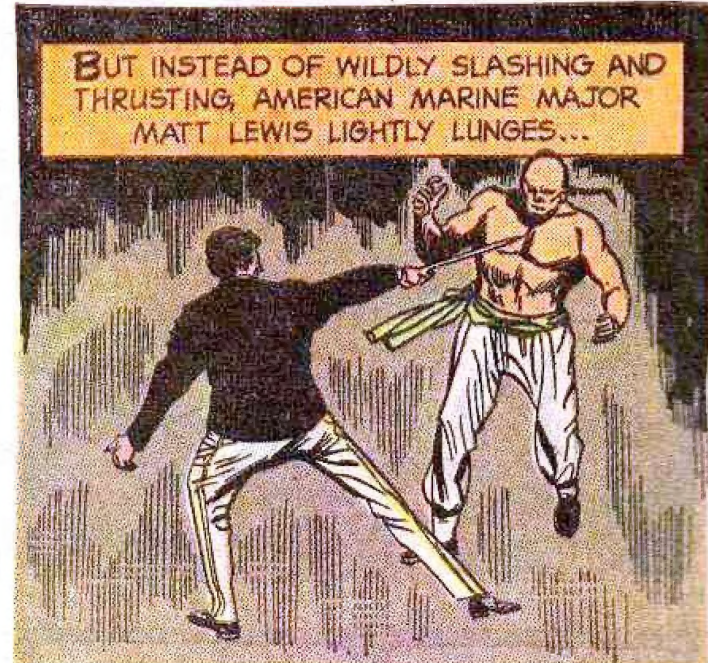


DO YOU?

WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHAT I BELIEVE? TEN MILLION CHINESE BELIEVE THE BOXERS CAN STOP BULLETS WITH THEIR BARE HANDS--- THEY ARE INVULNERABLE!





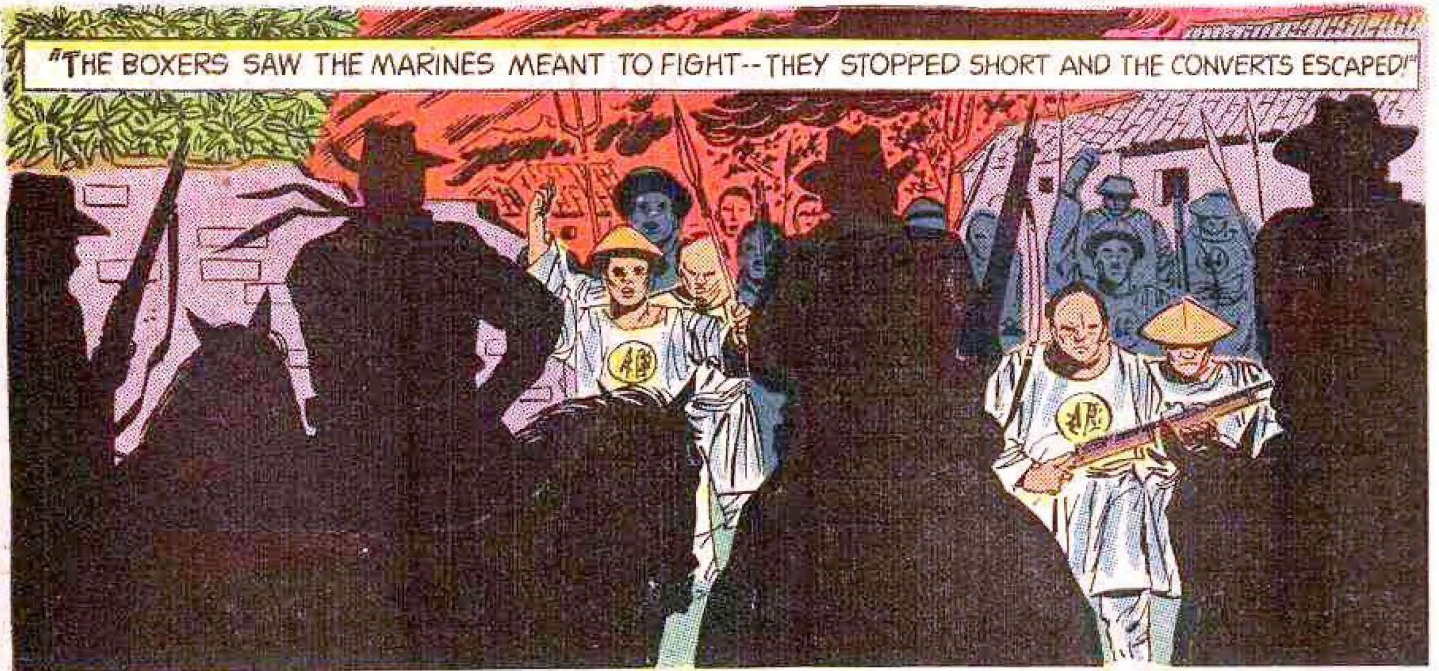








"THE BOXERS SAW THE MARINES MEANT TO FIGHT--THEY STOPPED SHORT AND THE CONVERTS ESCAPED!"



SPLENDID, MAJOR!  
BUT WHY DO THEY  
HAVE SUCH A RIDICU-  
LOUS NAME--**BOXERS**?

THEY ARE MEM-  
BERS OF THE  
"FISTS OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS,"  
A GROUP DETER-  
MINED TO DRIVE  
ALL OF US  
"FOREIGN DEVILS"  
OUT OF CHINA!  
NEWSMEN  
SHORTENED  
THEIR NAME  
TO "**BOXERS**"!



BEFORE THEY DO  
DRIVE US OUT---  
SHALL WE DANCE?

THE PLEASURE  
WILL BE *MINE*,  
BARONESS!



AH! YOU DANCE AS WELL AS YOU  
FIGHT! WHAT A SHAME I AM  
LEAVING PEKING TOMORROW!

TOMORROW?



YES! I HAVE A FRIEND HERE! ONE WHO  
KNOWS WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE EM-  
PRESS' FORBIDDEN CITY! HE WARNED ME  
THAT ANY FOREIGNERS REMAINING IN  
PEKING ---ARE **DOOMED**!



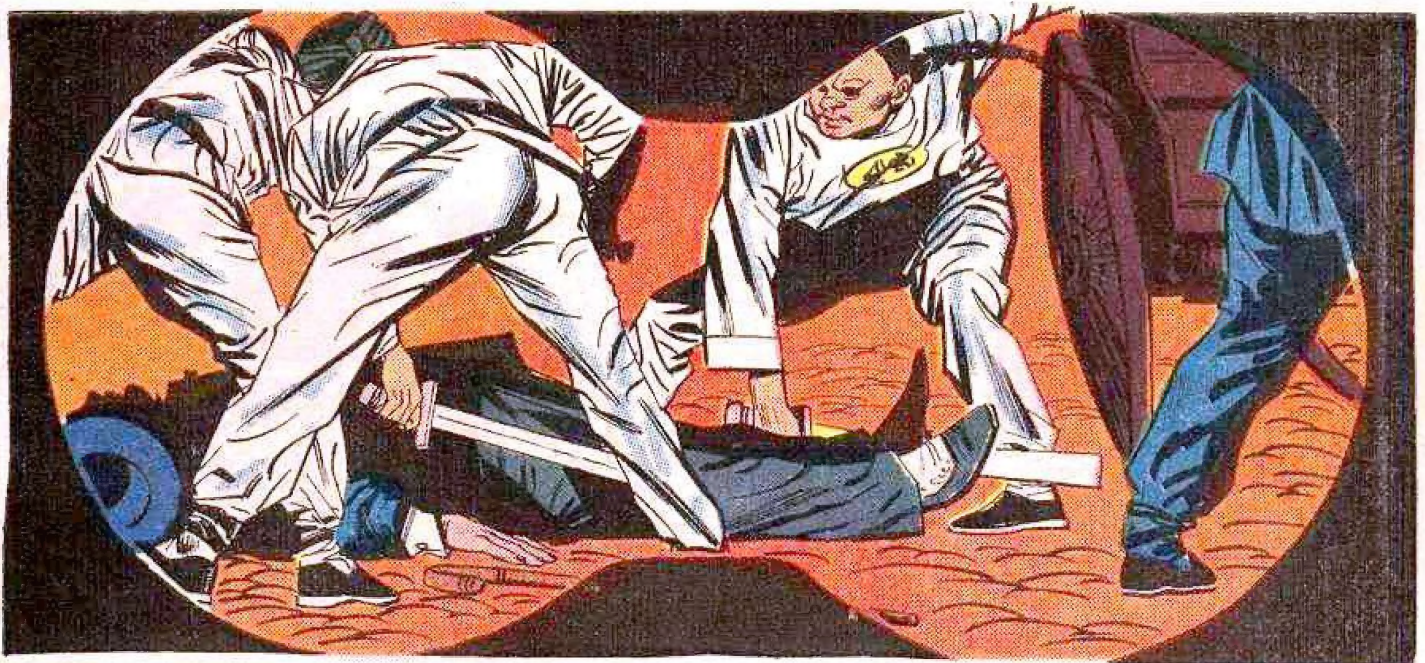


NEXT MORNING, IN MAJOR LEWIS' HOTEL ROOM...

THERE'S THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR!



AS LEWIS WATCHES, A BOXER RAIDING PARTY ATTACKS...



AND FOR A MOMENT, THROUGH THE CONFUSION, A LEERING FACE SWARMS INTO FOCUS...

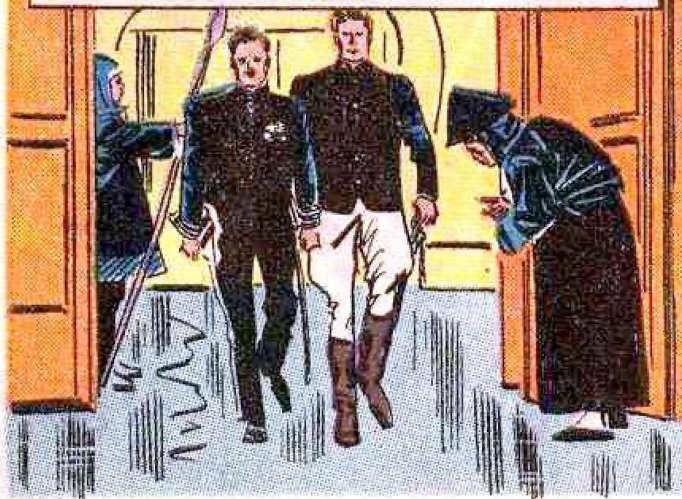


THOSE BOXERS MURDERED THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR RIGHT IN FRONT OF PRINCE TUAN---WITH HIS OBVIOUS APPROVAL!

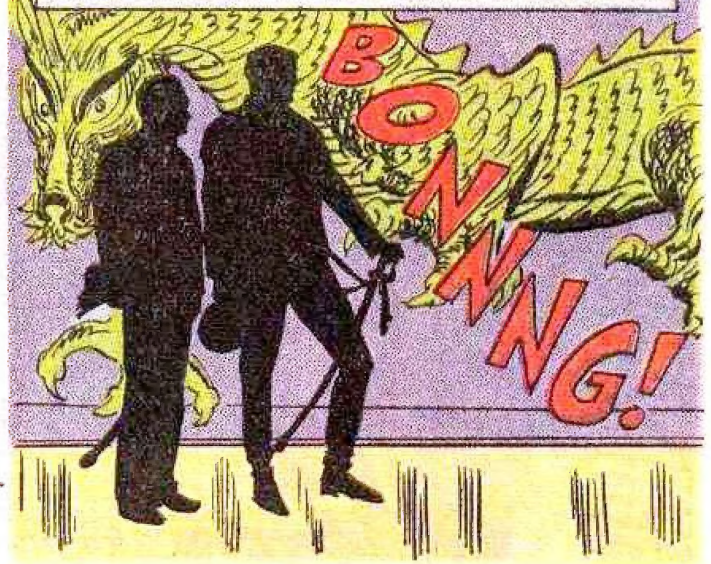




LATER THAT MORNING, THE BRITISH AM-  
BASSADOR AND MAJOR LEWIS STRIDE INTO  
THE FORBIDDEN CITY'S IMPERIAL RECEPTION  
HALL...

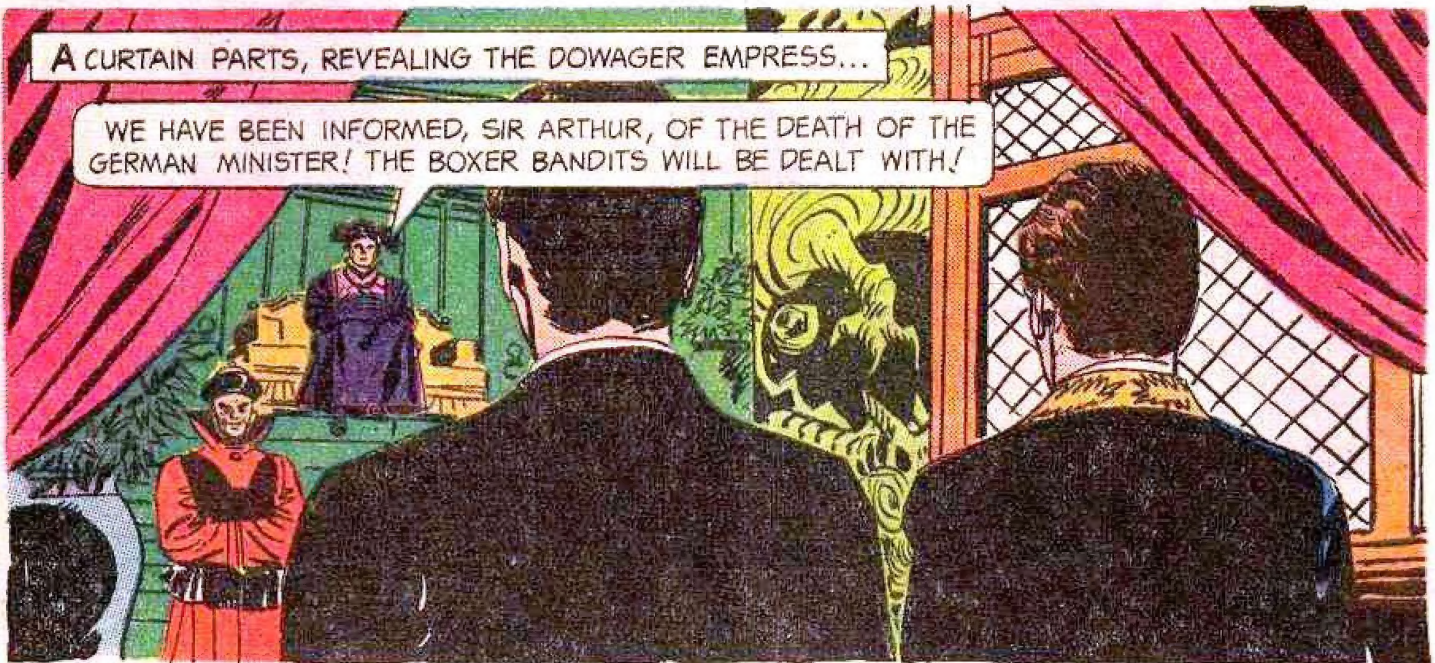


THEY ARE MET WITH A DEATHLY SILENCE  
UNTIL SUDDENLY A HUGE GONG IS SOUNDED...

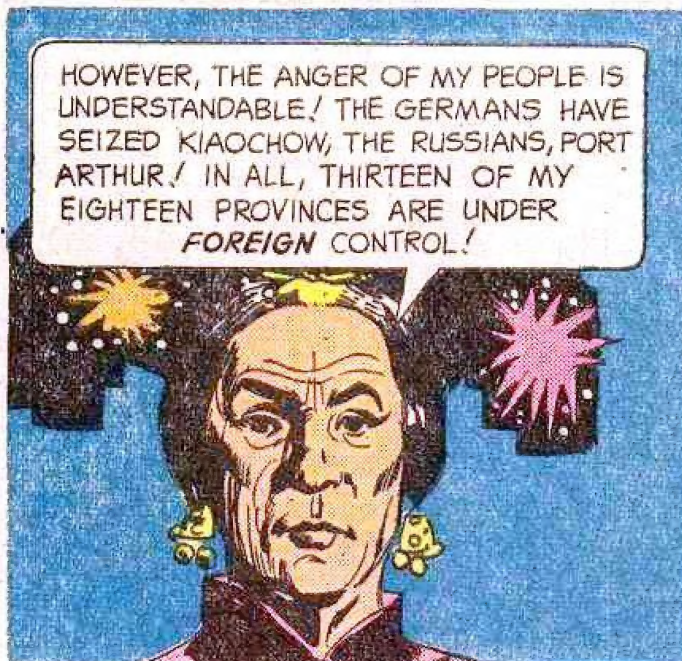


A CURTAIN PARTS, REVEALING THE DOWAGER EMPRESS...

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED, SIR ARTHUR, OF THE DEATH OF THE  
GERMAN MINISTER! THE BOXER BANDITS WILL BE DEALT WITH!



HOWEVER, THE ANGER OF MY PEOPLE IS  
UNDERSTANDABLE! THE GERMANS HAVE  
SEIZED KIAOCHOW, THE RUSSIANS, PORT  
ARTHUR! IN ALL, THIRTEEN OF MY  
EIGHTEEN PROVINCES ARE UNDER  
**FOREIGN CONTROL!**



FOREIGN ARMIES OCCUPY OUR FORTS!  
FOREIGN GODS DISTURB THE SPIRITS OF  
OUR ANCESTORS! FOREIGN MERCHANTS  
ADMINISTER OUR BANKS! NATURALLY, MY  
PEOPLE ARE AROUSED!

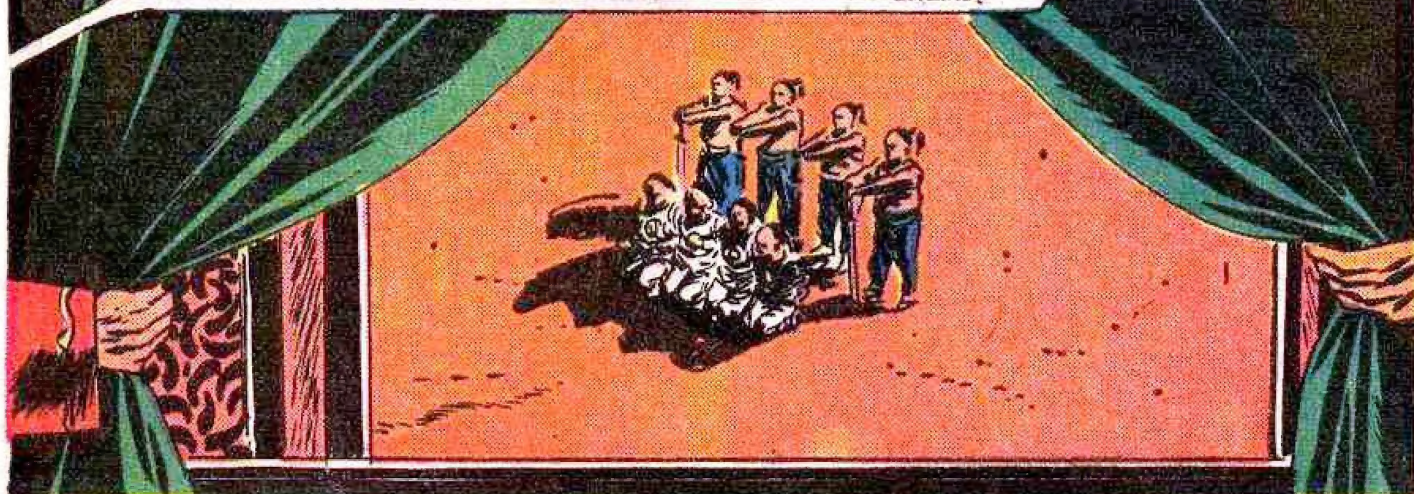
THE BOXERS WILL **NOT**  
REDRESS THE GRIEVANCES  
OF CHINA!





AT A SIGNAL FROM THE EMPRESS, A CURTAIN IS PULLED ASIDE...

YOU CAN INFORM YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT CHINESE JUSTICE IS SWIFT! THOSE ARE THE MINISTER'S MURDERERS!



YOUR MAJESTY, WHO IS THE MURDERER? THE ONE WHO WIELDS THE SWORD OR THE ONE WHO GIVES THE **COMMAND**?

DO YOU KNOW **WHO** ORDERED THE MINISTER'S DEATH?



WITH YOUR MAJESTY'S PERMISSION, MAJOR LEWIS WAS AN **EYEWITNESS!**

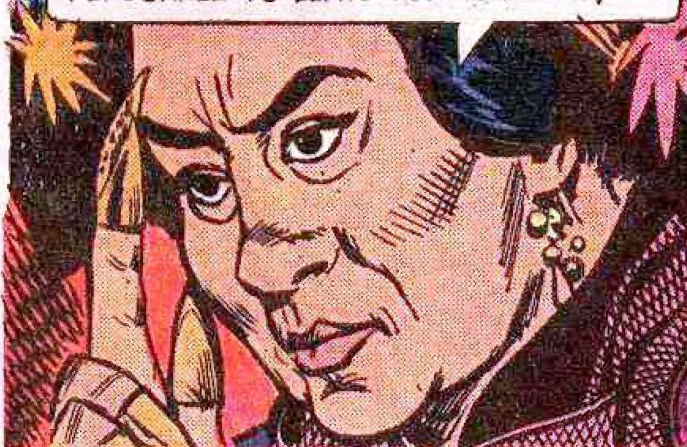
AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF YOUR COURT ALSO WATCHED THE ASSASSINATION--- **PRINCE TUAN!**



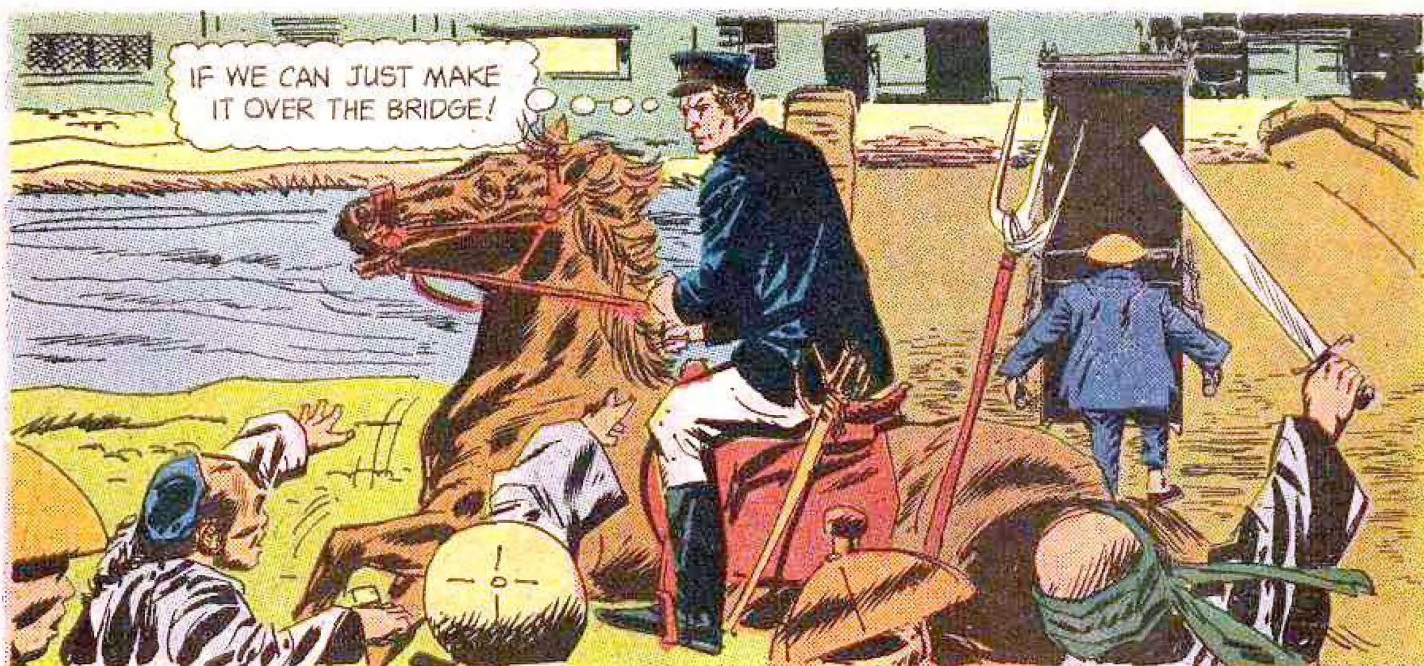
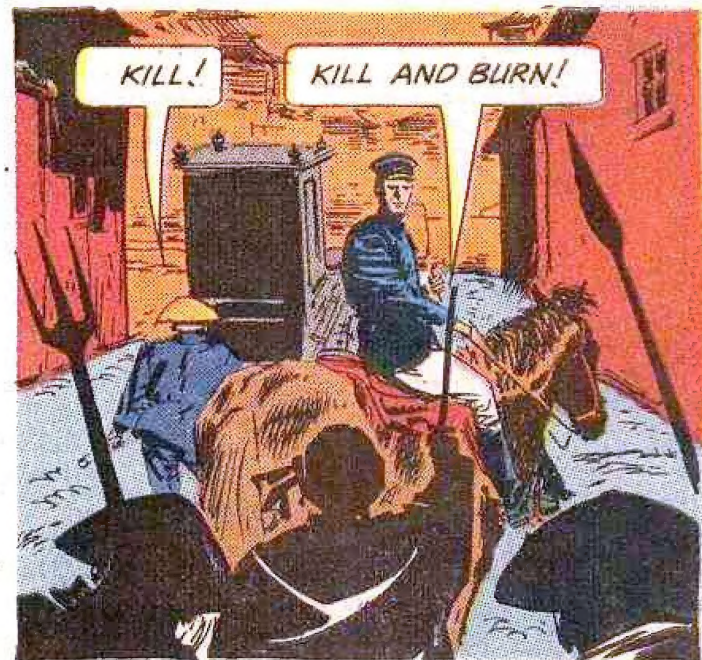
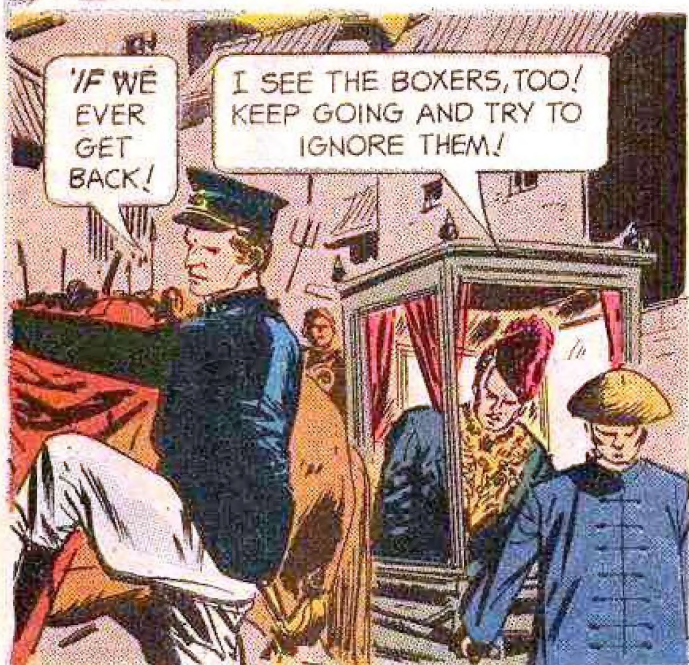
DID YOU COME HERE, SIR ARTHUR, TO MAKE ME TAKE ACTION AGAINST MY CLOSEST ADVISER? THE MAN I JUST APPOINTED HEAD OF OUR FOREIGN OFFICE?



BECAUSE OF THE LONG DROUGHT, BECAUSE OF MY PEOPLE'S HUNGER AND THEIR ANGER AT FOREIGNERS, PEKING MAY BECOME **TROUBLED!** I ADVISE ALL DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO LEAVE PEKING **TODAY!**









MIRACULOUSLY, THE PAIR REACHES THE SAFETY OF THE LEGATION AREA...

YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?

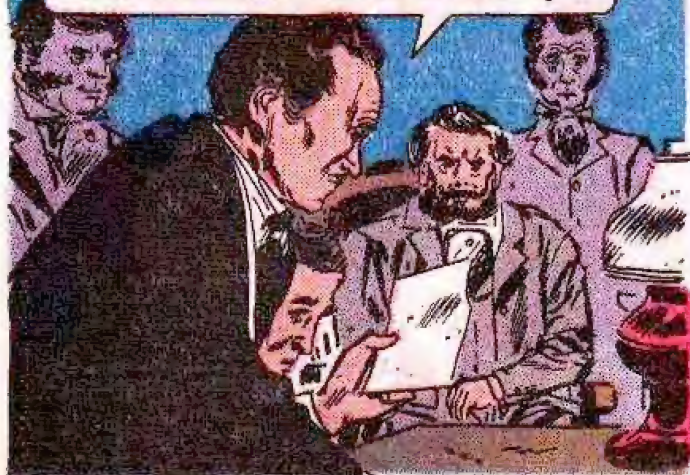
QUITE! NOW SUMMON ALL THE FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES TO MY OFFICE--**AT ONCE!**





QUICKLY, A SECOND VOTE IS TAKEN...

-- THEN WE UNANIMOUSLY AGREE TO **REMAIN!** I HOPE OUR FIRM STAND WILL PRESERVE PEACE IN CHINA!



WITH THE DECISION TO STAY AND FIGHT, ROBERTSON'S NEXT CONFERENCE IS WITH THE MILITARY...

WE HAVE SIX HUNDRED NATIONALS AND AS MANY CHINESE-CHRISTIAN REFUGEES TO PROTECT, GENTLEMEN! WHAT IS YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION?



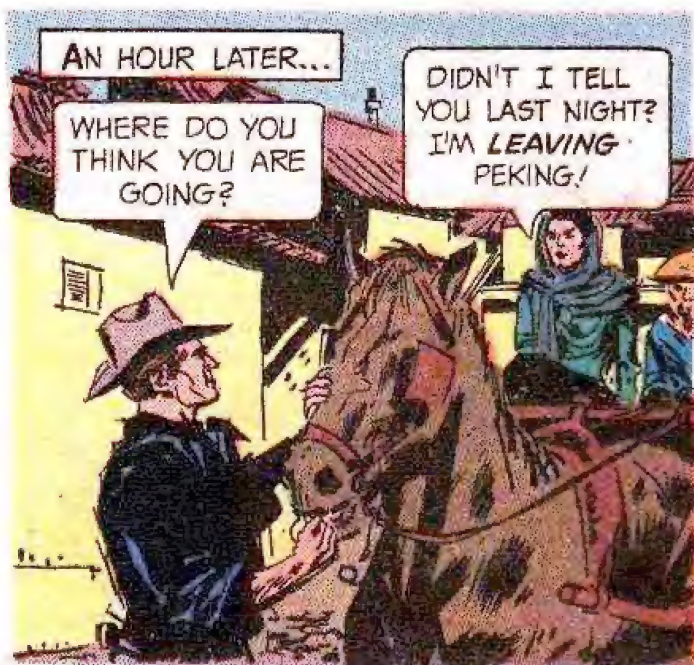
AS COMMANDER OF THE LARGEST FORCE, I WILL SPEAK! OUR COMBINED FOUR HUNDRED MEN **CANNOT** DEFEND A PERIMETER OF TWO MILES--BUT WE WILL **TRY** TO DO JUST THAT!



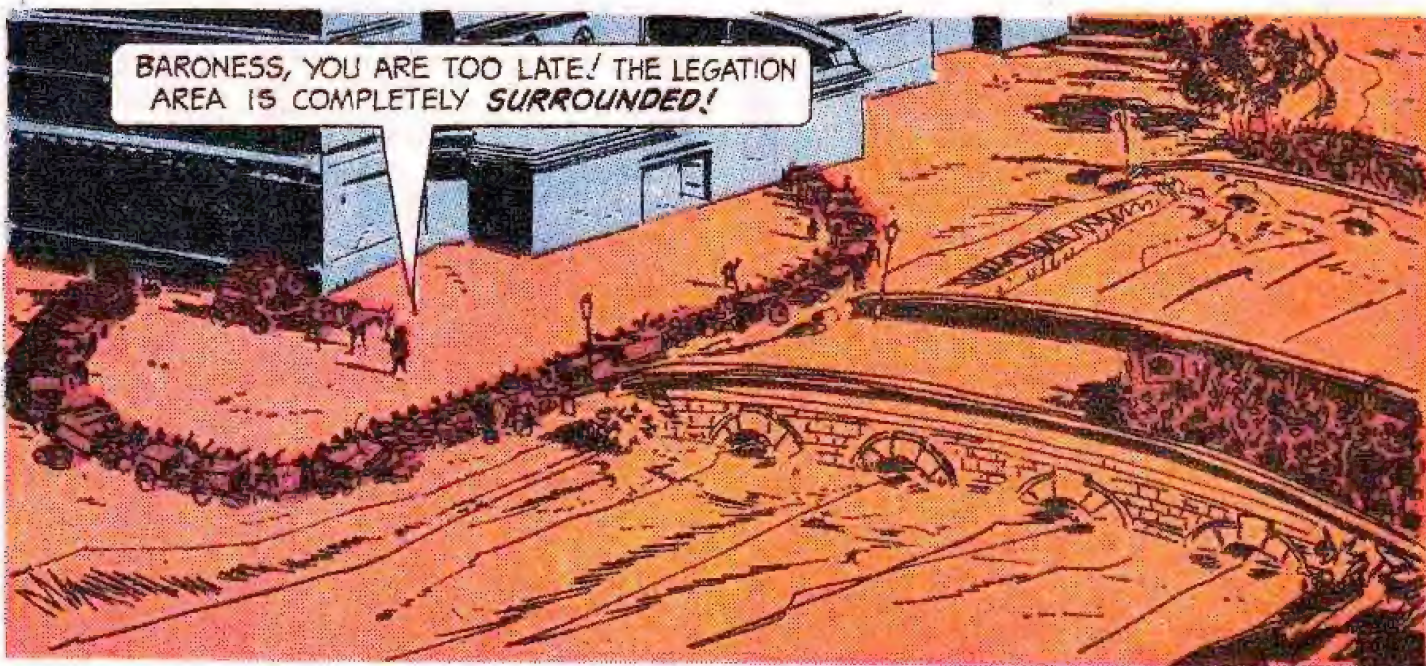
AN HOUR LATER...

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING?

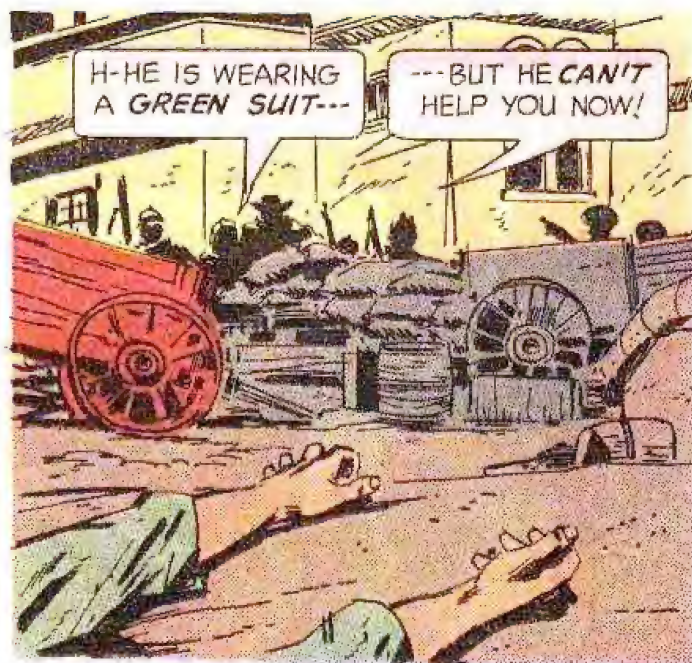
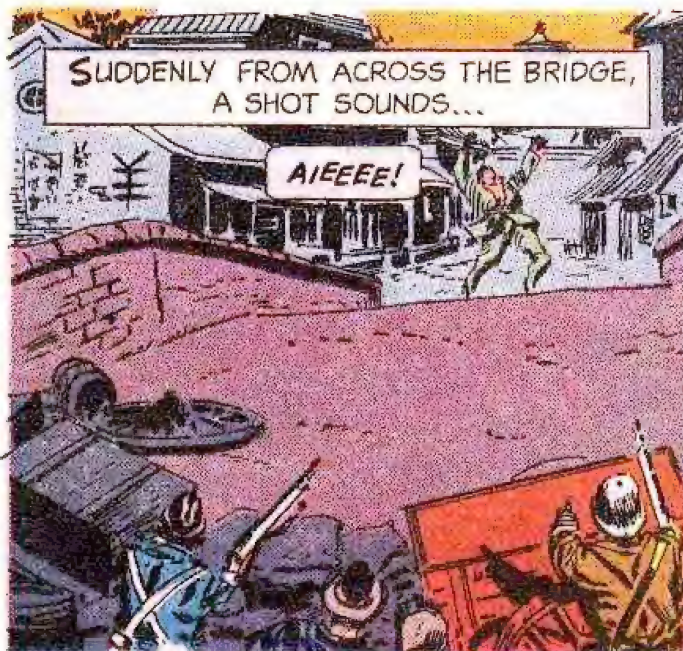
DIDN'T I TELL YOU LAST NIGHT? I'M **LEAVING** PEKING!



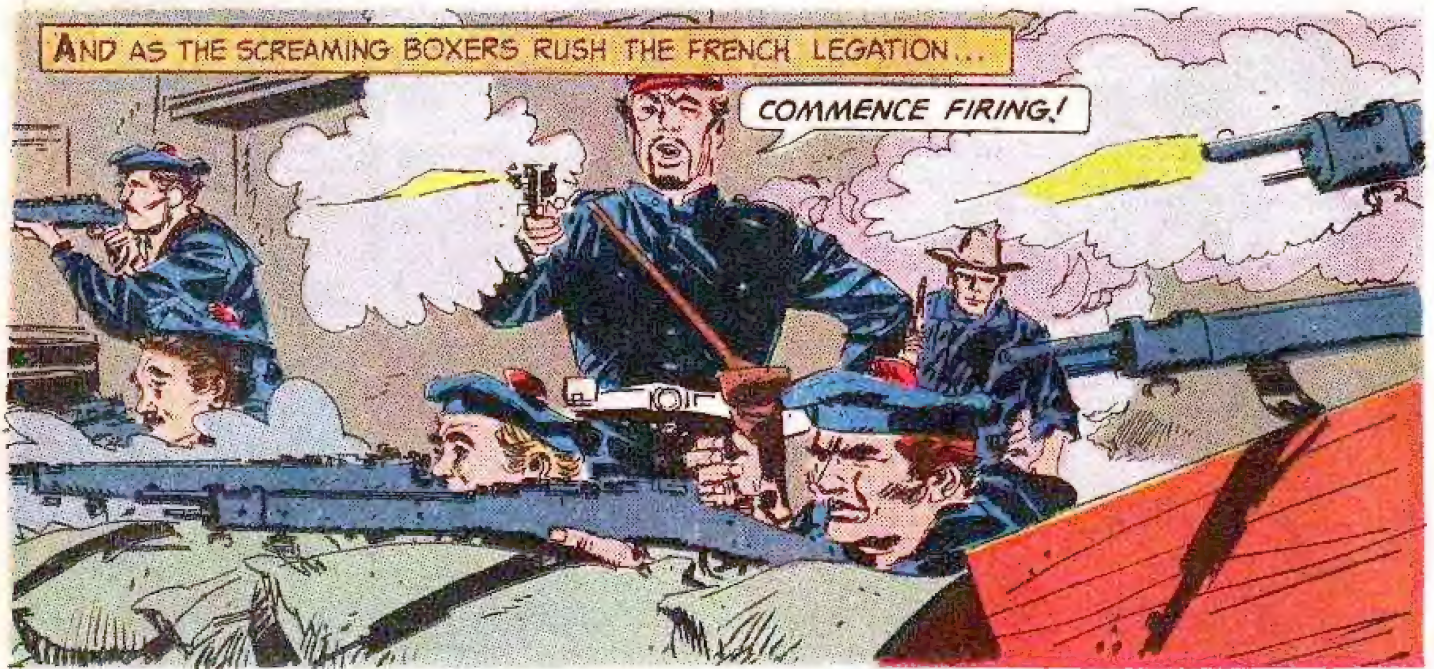
BARONESS, YOU ARE TOO LATE! THE LEGATION AREA IS COMPLETELY **SURROUNDED!**



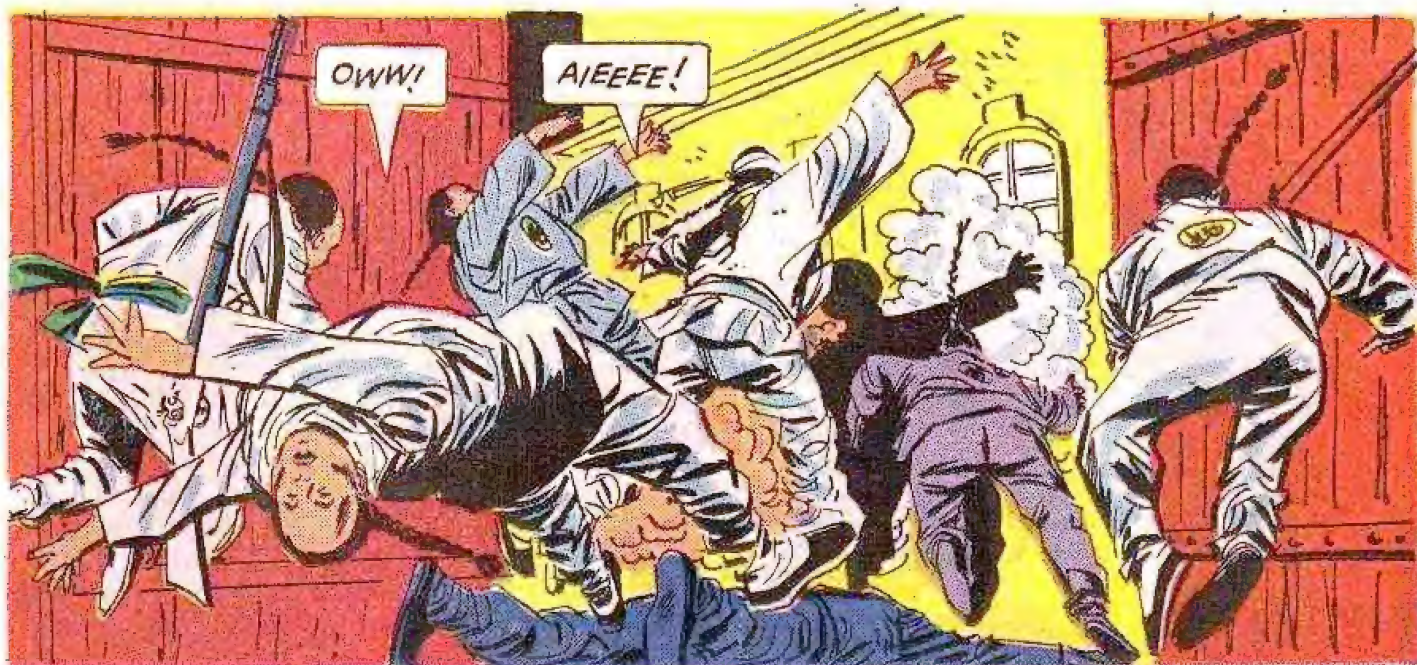










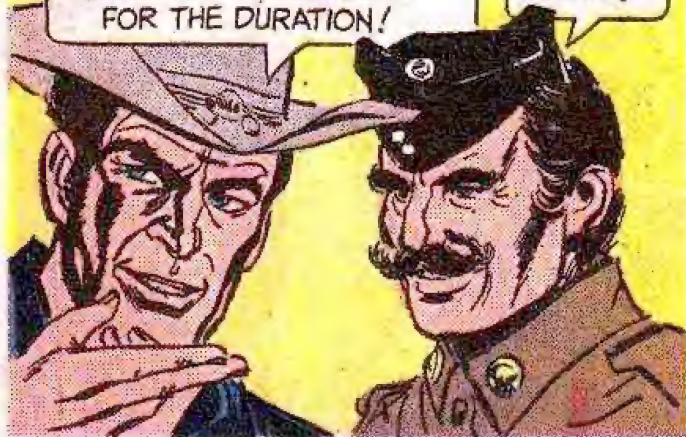




AFTER A GRUMBLING ACCEPTANCE IS MADE...

FINE! AND SO THERE'S NO TROUBLE ABOUT RANK, LET'S MAKE HIM A *GENERAL*--- FOR THE DURATION!

AH! NINE DAYS OF GLORY!



QUICKLY, THE LEGATION BUILDINGS ARE PREPARED FOR A SIEGE...



FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, THE SIEGE PASSES QUIETLY AND THE FOLLOWING EVENING...

FATHER DE BEARN, WHAT IS THAT?

WE FOUND AN ANCIENT CHINESE GUN, MOUNTED IT ON AN ITALIAN CARRIAGE WITH FRENCH WHEELS! WE'RE USING RUSSIAN SHELLS!



WE CALL HER BETSY AND SHE IS READY TO SERVE!

THE ONLY QUESTION IS---IS IT SAFER IN FRONT OR BEHIND BETSY?



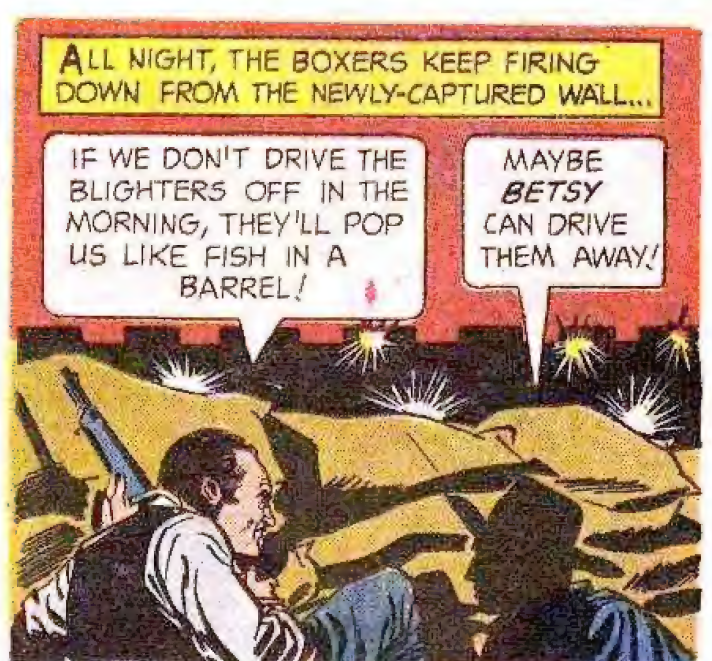
THAT EVENING...

BARONESS! DON'T YOU THINK YOU OUGHT TO GET INSIDE?

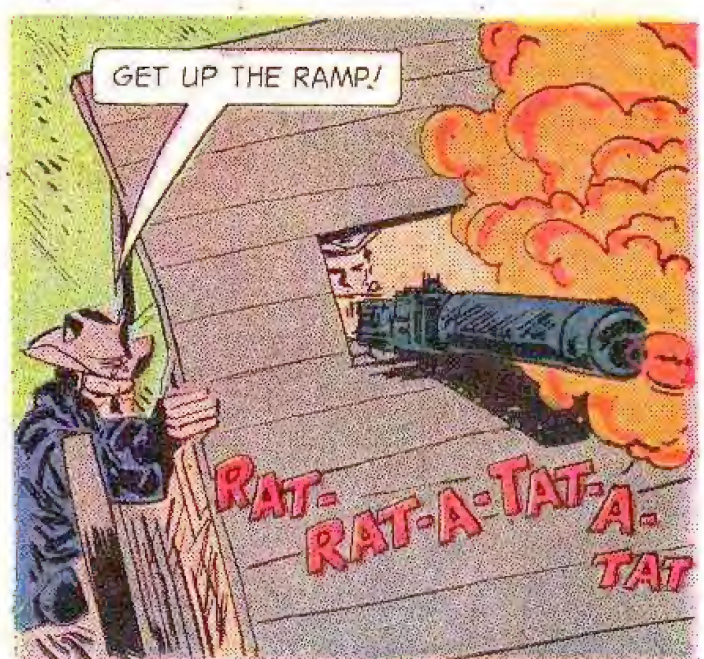
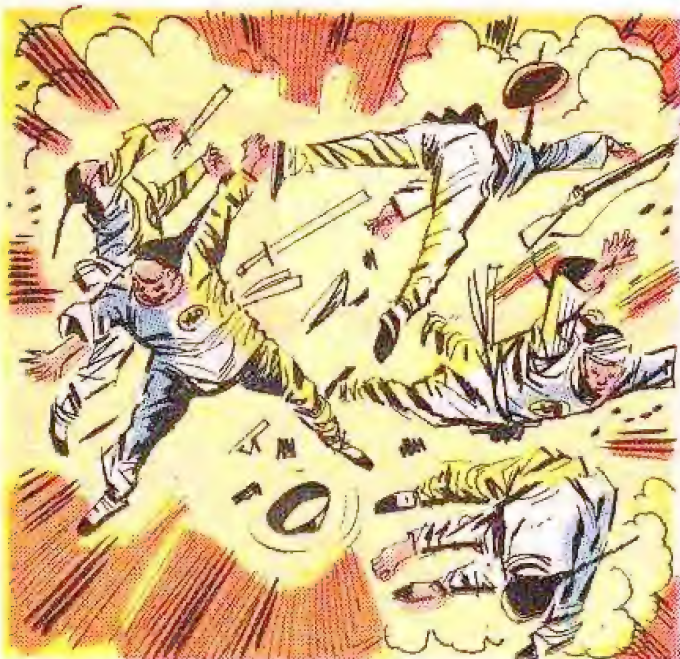
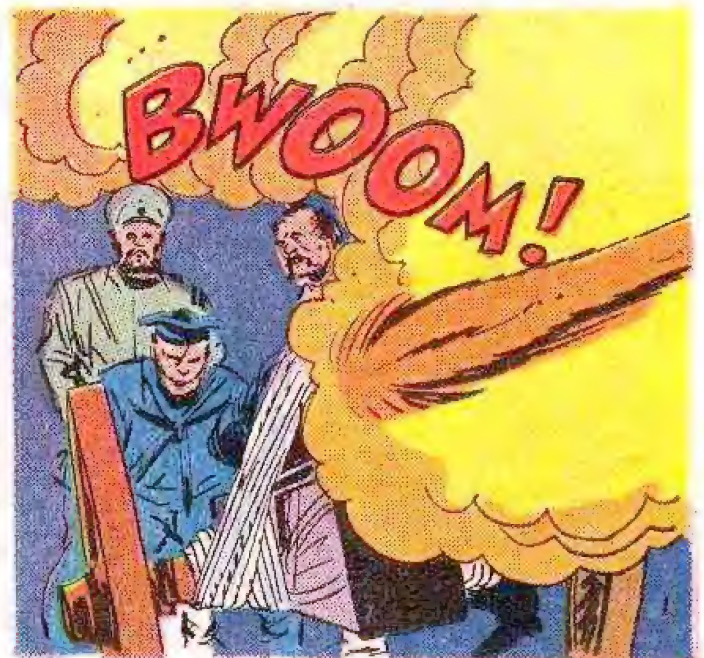
AND MISS ALL THE EXCITEMENT?



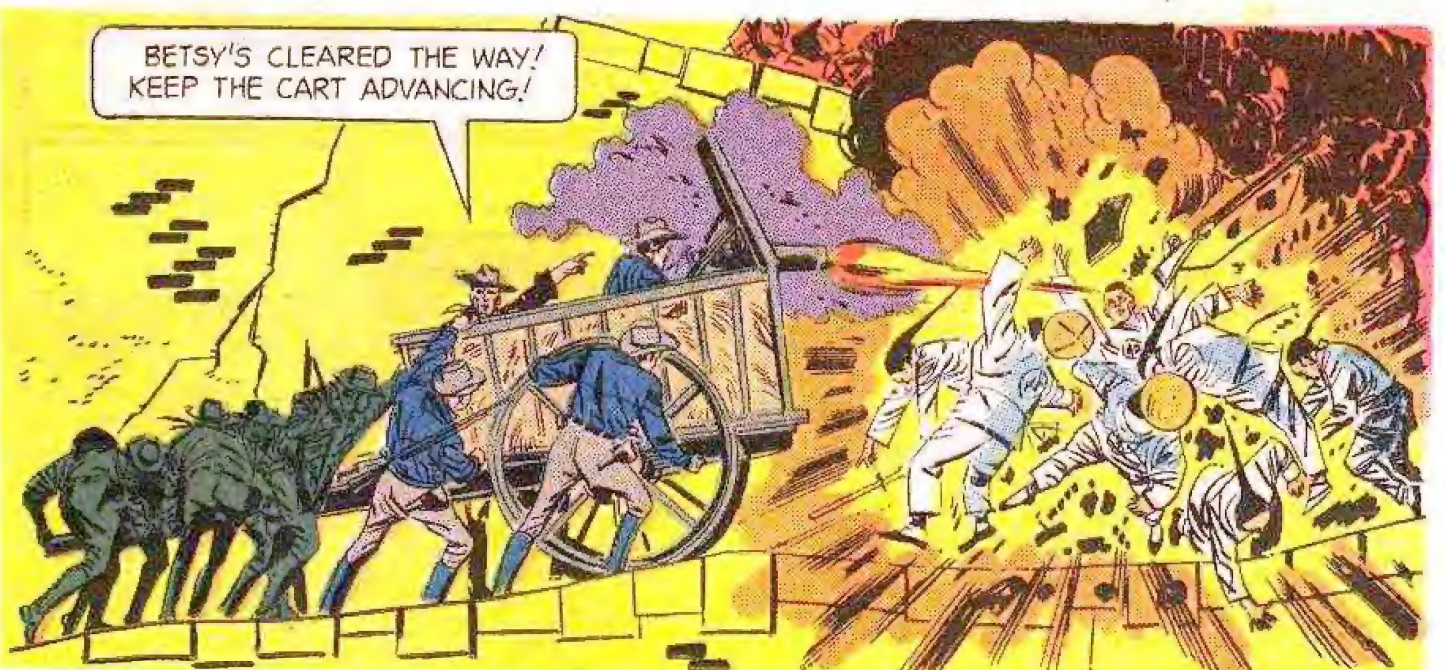
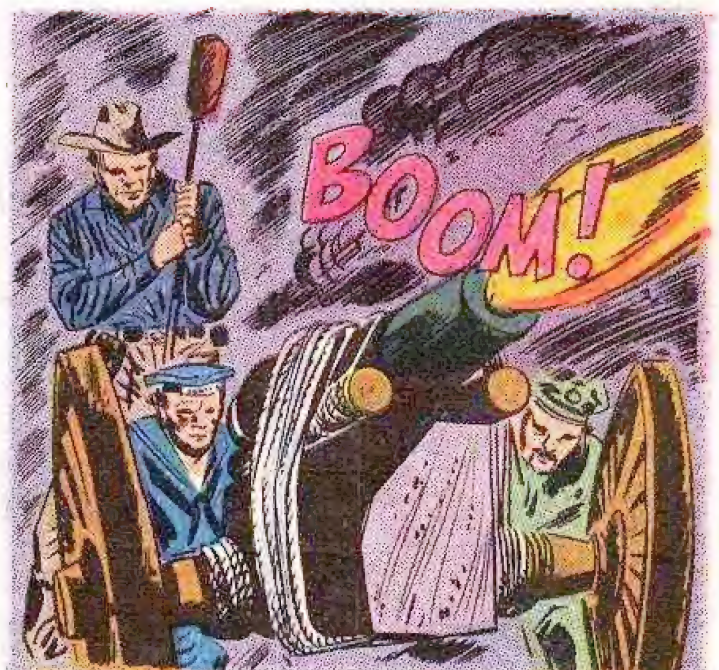
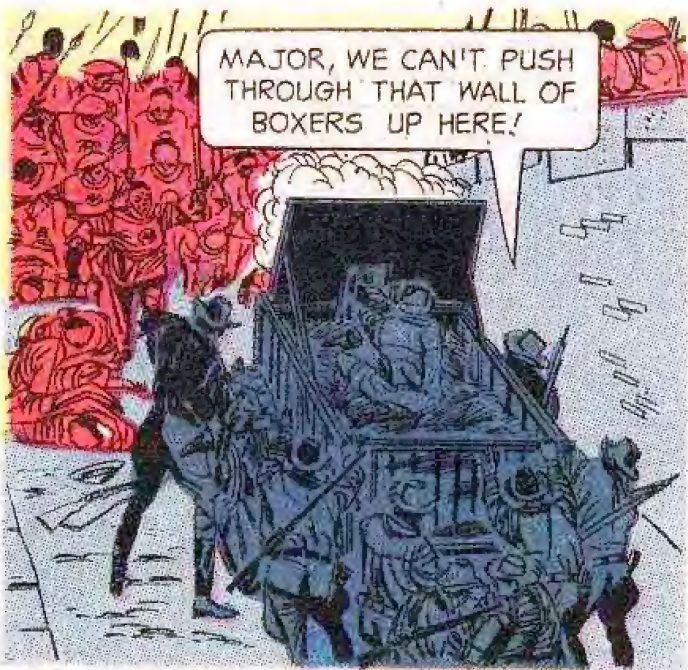
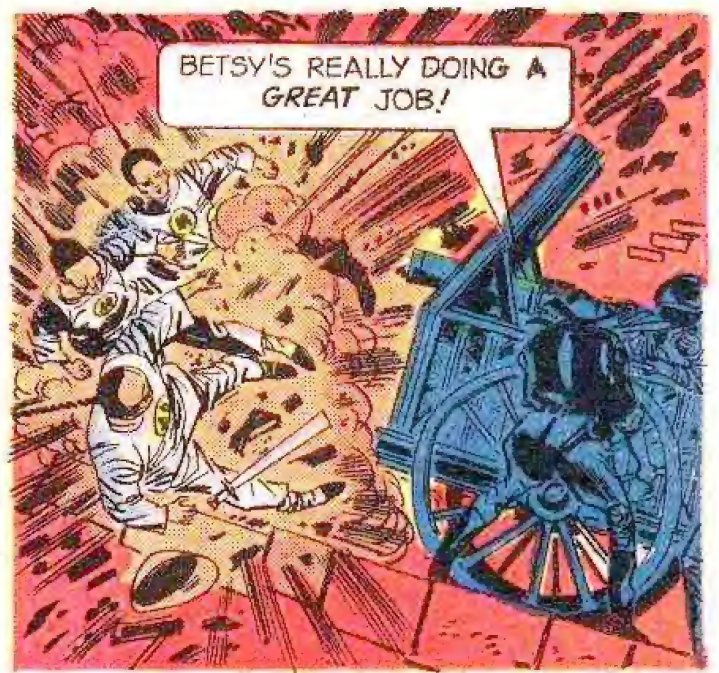
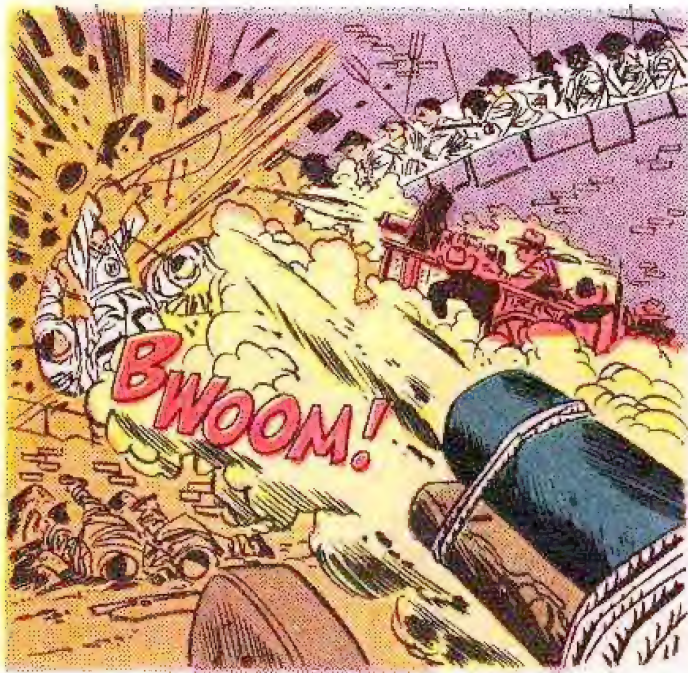




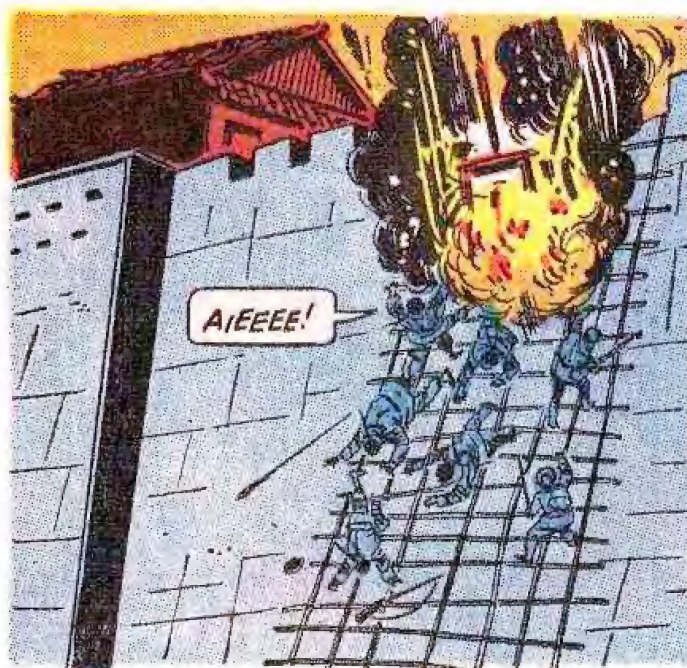
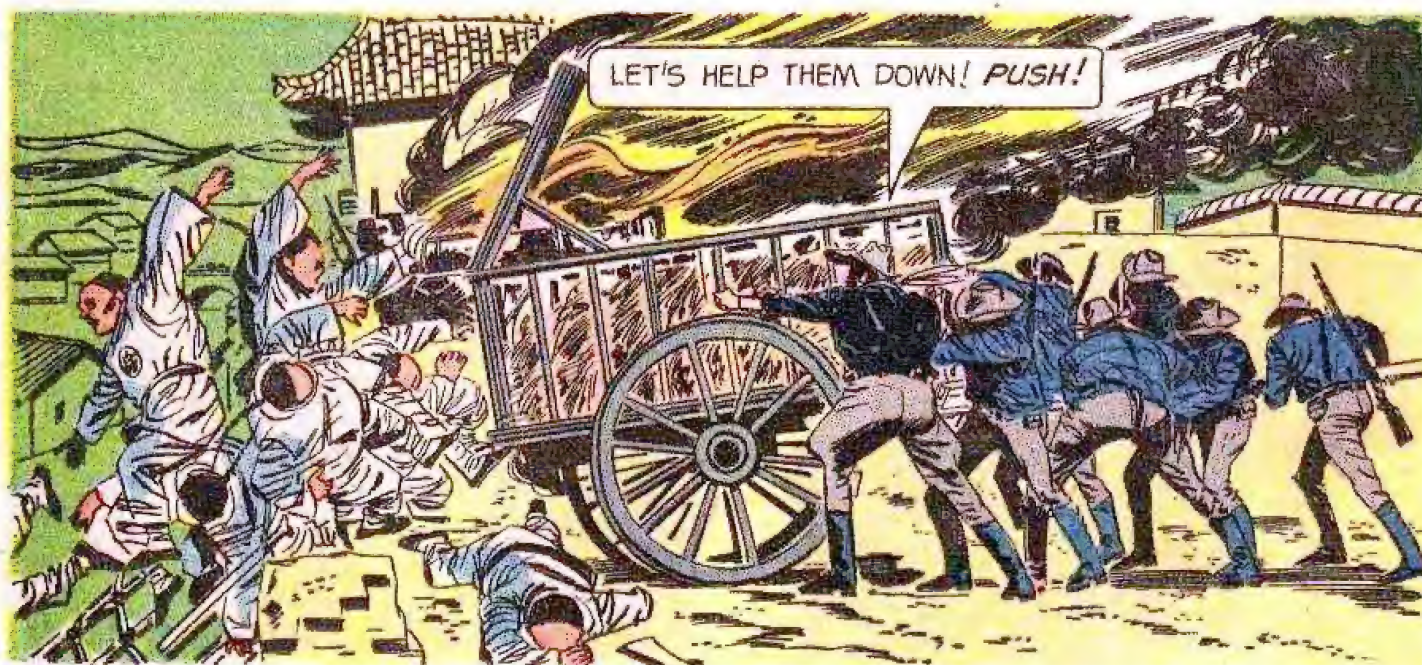
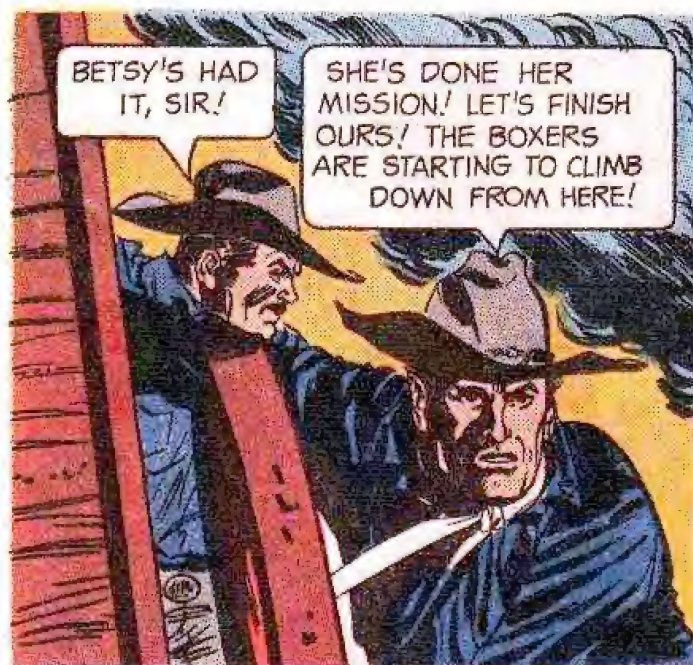








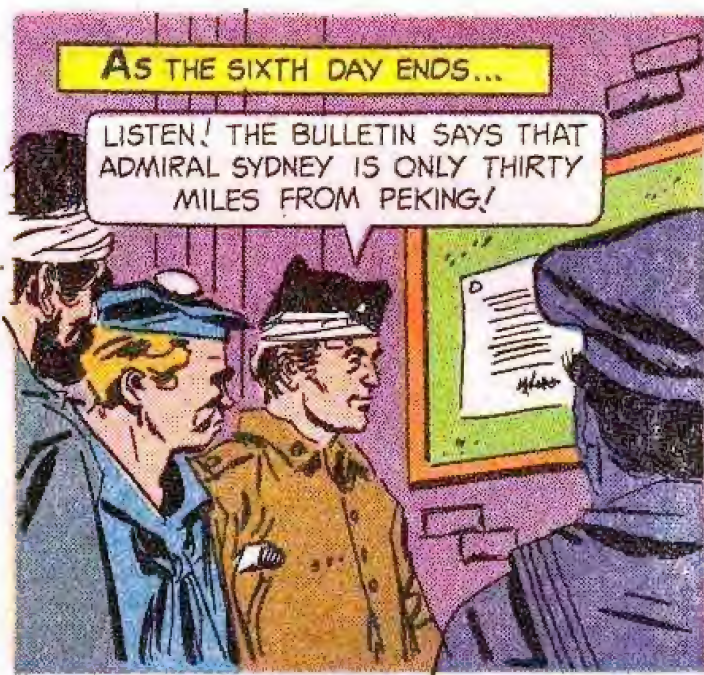








I KNOW YOU'RE SURPRISED TO SEE ME HERE, BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT SOLDIER, I REALIZE THAT I CAN'T REMAIN A USELESS DECORATION!



AS THE SIXTH DAY ENDS...

LISTEN! THE BULLETIN SAYS THAT ADMIRAL SYDNEY IS ONLY THIRTY MILES FROM PEKING!



AT THE SAME MOMENT, THIRTY MILES FROM PEKING...

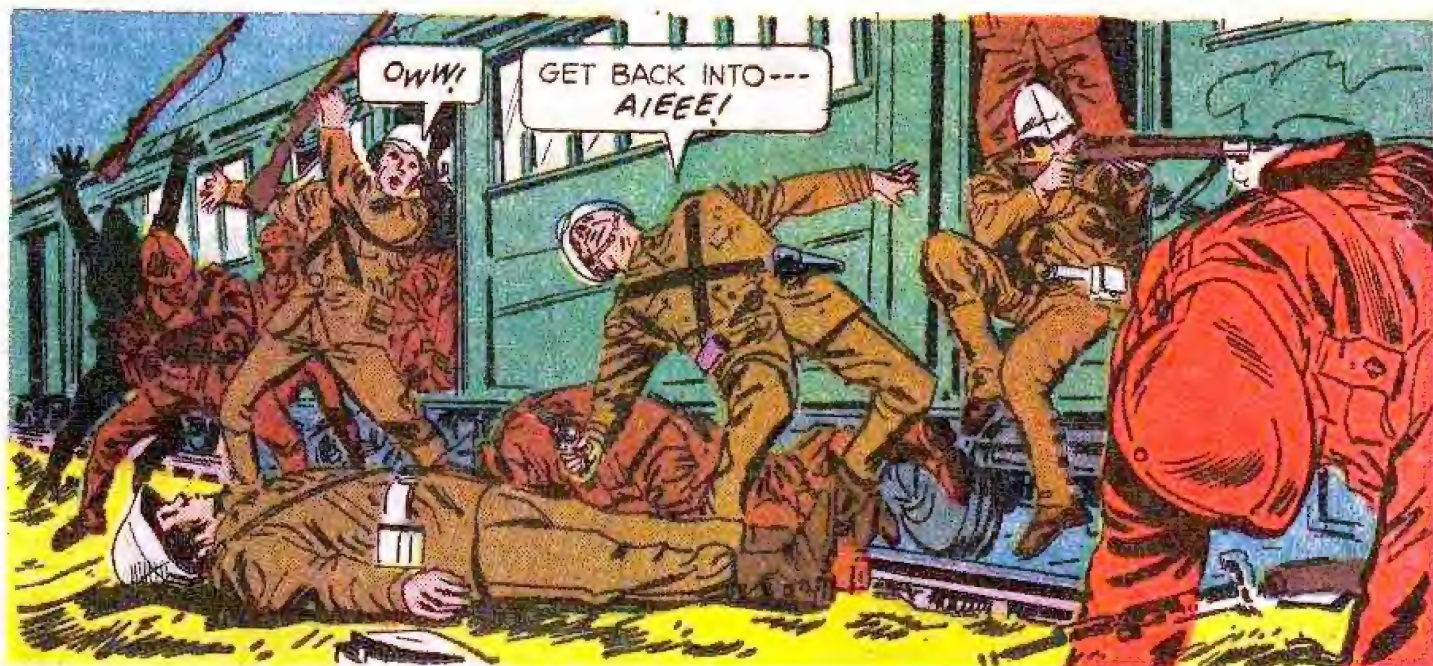
ADMIRAL, THE TRACKS AHEAD ARE RIPPED UP!

VERY WELL, THEN WE MARCH TO PEKING!



BUT AS THE TROOPS START OFF THE TRAIN...

KILL! BURN AND KILL!



OWW!

GET BACK INTO--- AIEEE!



IN PEKING, THE SIEGE CONTINUES, AS EACH HOUR BRINGS MORE CASUALTIES INTO THE HOSPITAL AND TAKES MORE DEFENDERS FROM THE BATTERED BARRICADES...



I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE AN ANGEL OF MERCY, BARONESS! AS RUSSIAN MINISTER, I SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOU --- BUT I *KNOW* YOUR SECRET!

THEN IT ISN'T MUCH OF A SECRET!



I WILL KEEP IT OFFICIALLY SECRET, BARONESS! BUT I CANNOT HELP WONDERING *HOW* YOUR MAJOR LEWIS WILL FEEL WHEN HE FINDS OUT THE *TRUTH* ABOUT YOU!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER, A MESSAGE IS SMUGGLED IN...

ADMIRAL SYDNEY HAS BEEN FORCED BACK WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES! HE IS RETREATING TO TIENTSIN TO AWAIT RE-INFORCEMENTS BEFORE TRYING TO REACH US!



IT WILL BE *WEEKS* BEFORE HE GETS HERE!

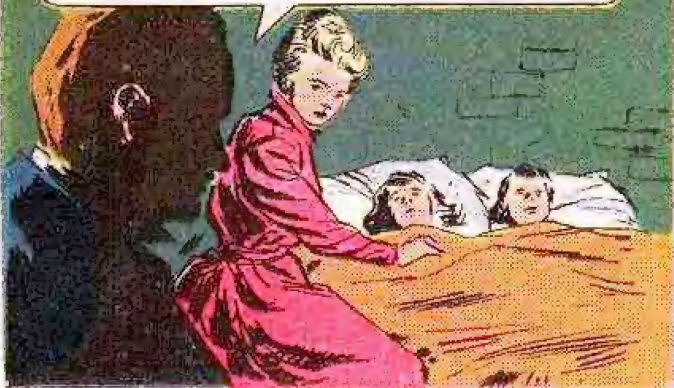
THEY MIGHT AS WELL *NOT* COME! HOW LONG CAN WE HOLD OUT WITH OUR AMMUNITION LOW AND OUR FORCE SO SMALL?





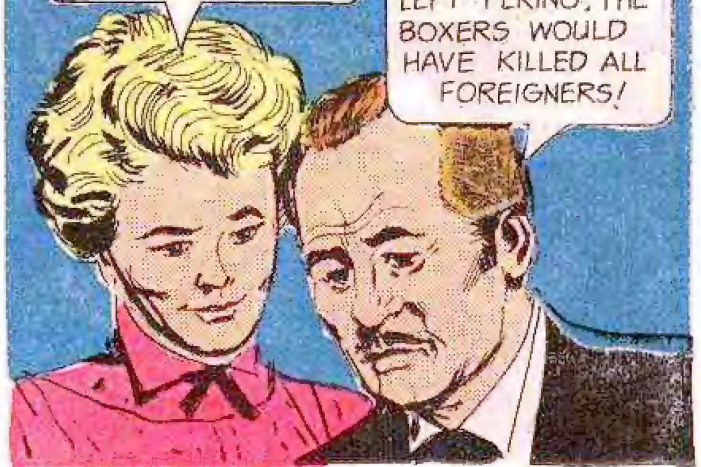
THAT NIGHT, SIR ARTHUR JOINS HIS WIFE IN A REFUGEE SHELTER...

AM I AN HONEST MAN WHO SOUGHT TO PREVENT A WAR IN CHINA OR AN AMBITIOUS ONE, WHO TRIED TO GAIN FAME BY DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE?



ONLY AN HONEST MAN COULD ASK HIMSELF SUCH A QUESTION, ARTHUR!

I CAN'T HELP FEELING THE BURDEN OF GUILT FOR ALL THIS! BUT IF WE LEFT PEKING, THE BOXERS WOULD HAVE KILLED ALL FOREIGNERS!



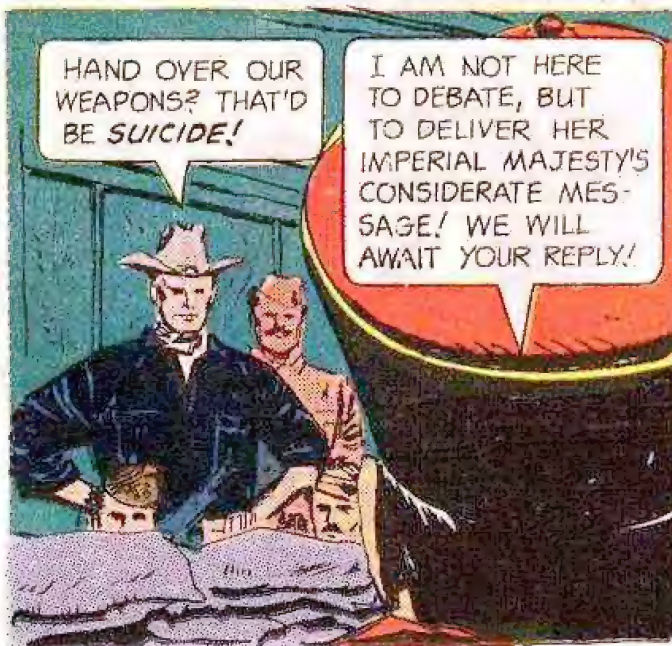
THE NEXT DAY, THE SHOOTING SUDDENLY STOPS...

IN VIEW OF THE UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION OF THE FORCES UNDER ADMIRAL SYDNEY, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DEMANDS THE SURRENDER OF YOUR FORCES IMMEDIATELY!



HAND OVER OUR WEAPONS? THAT'D BE SUICIDE!

I AM NOT HERE TO DEBATE, BUT TO DELIVER HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S CONSIDERATE MESSAGE! WE WILL AWAIT YOUR REPLY!

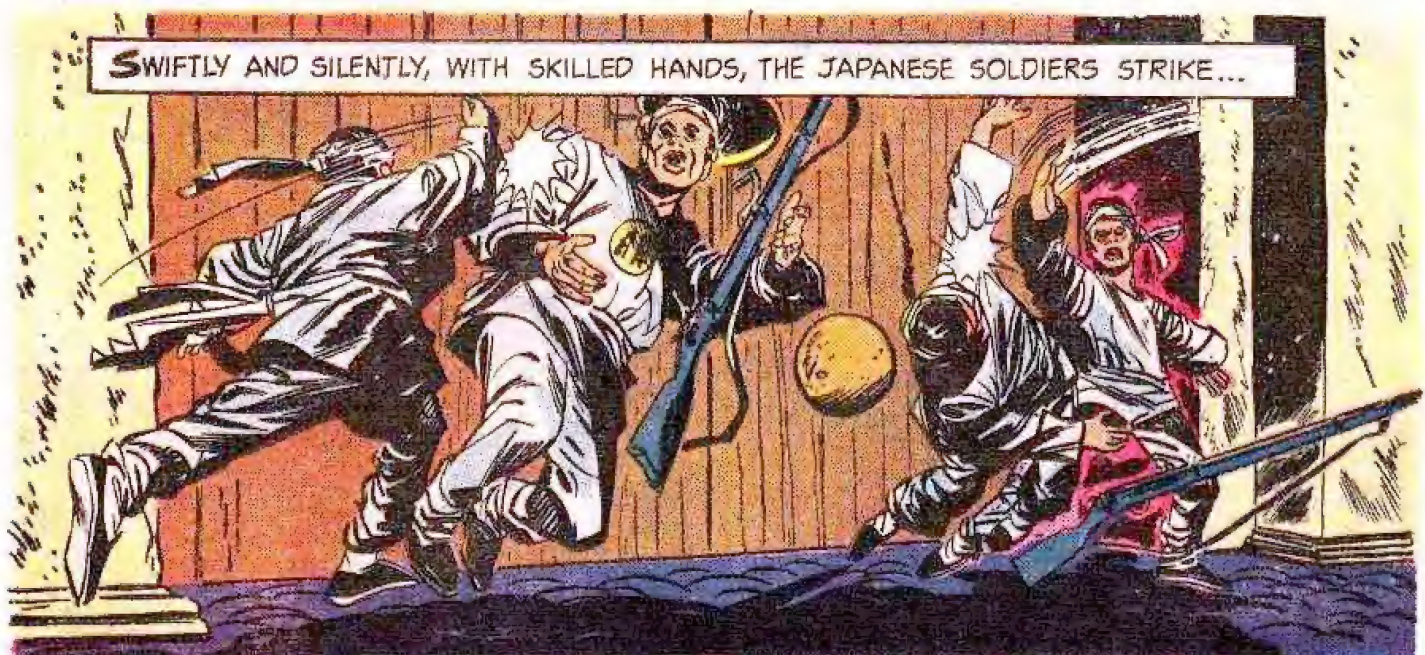


SIR ARTHUR, YOU GOT US INTO THIS SITUATION! WHAT DO WE DO?

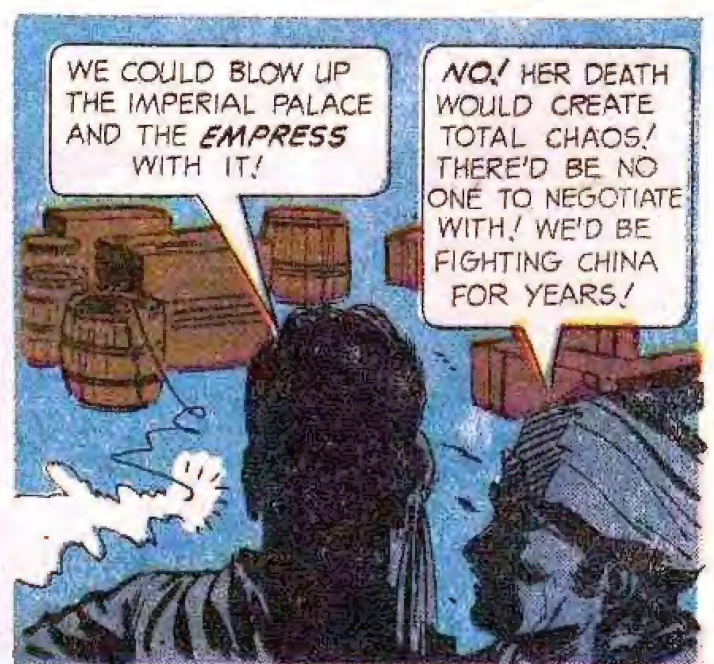
I THINK, SIR, YOU SHOULD KNOW WE HAVE SUFFERED ALMOST A THIRD CASUALTIES AND IT WOULD TAKE A RELIEF FORCE A MONTH TO FIGHT THEIR WAY HERE!



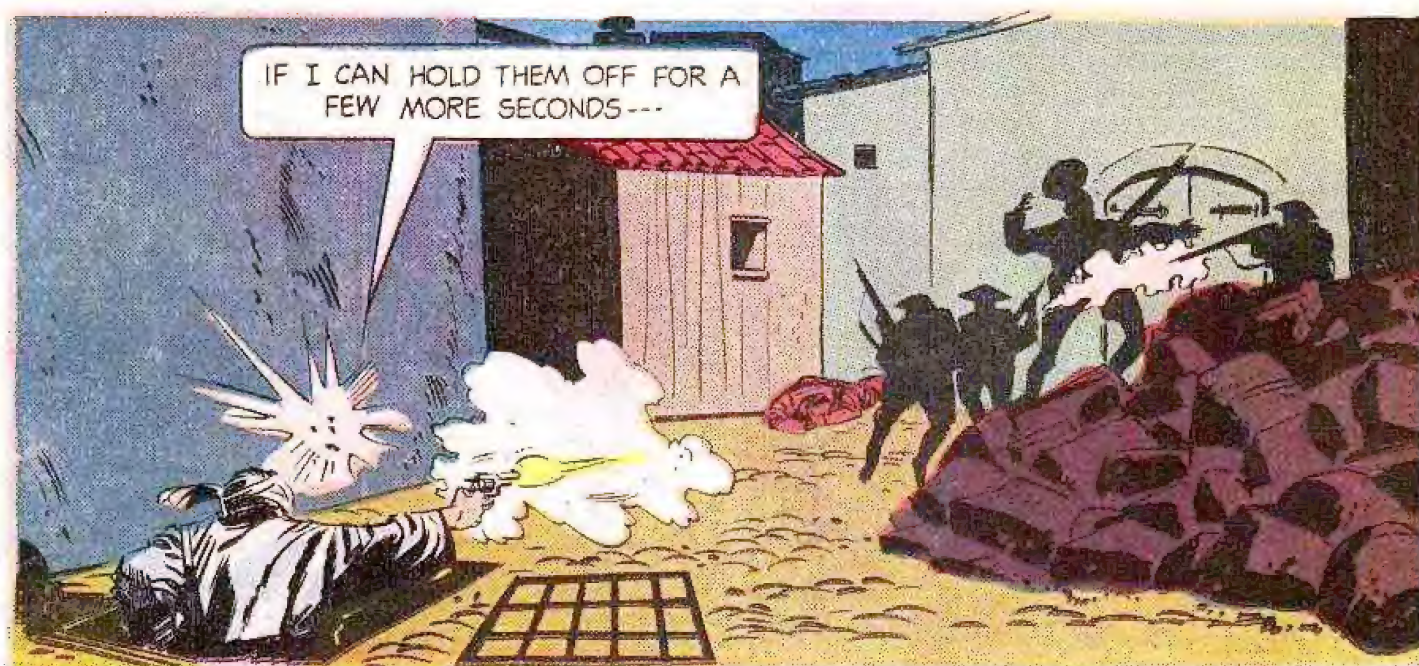
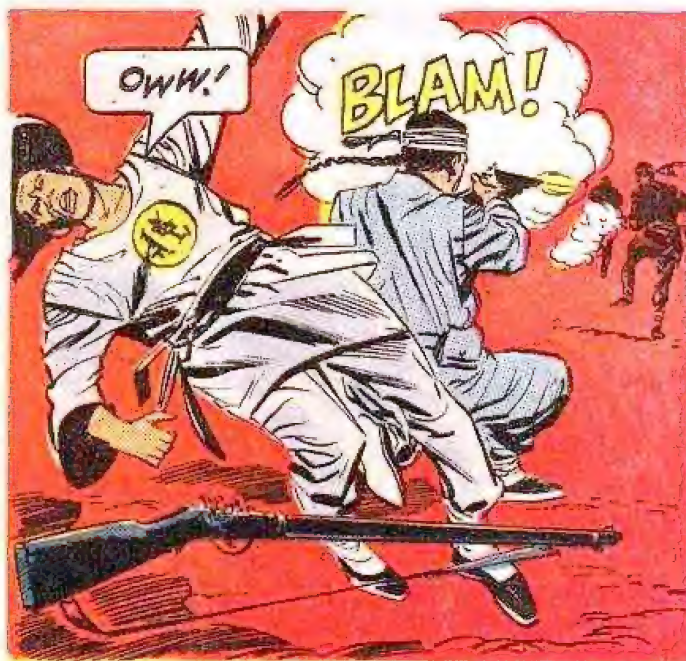














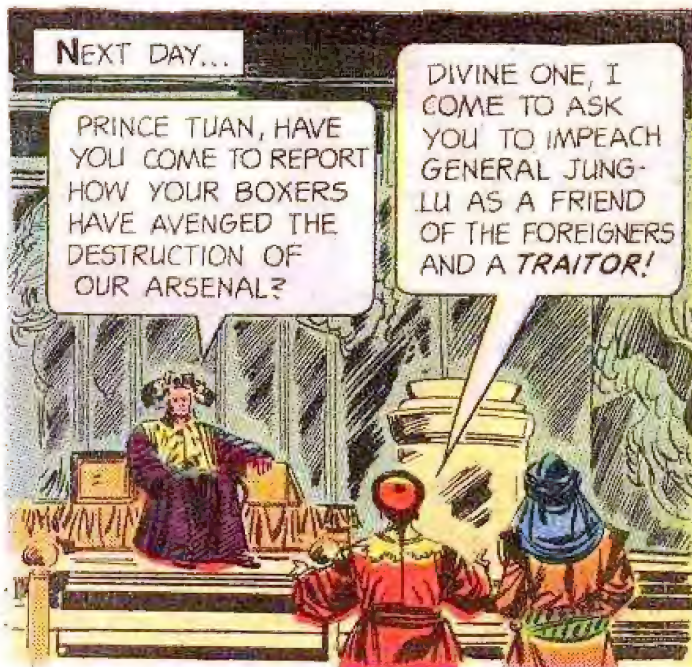
-- A FEW SECONDS IS ALL THAT'S NEEDED BEFORE  
THE BOXER ARSENAL BLOWS SKY-HIGH!



NEXT DAY...

PRINCE TUAN, HAVE  
YOU COME TO REPORT  
HOW YOUR BOXERS  
HAVE AVENGED THE  
DESTRUCTION OF  
OUR ARSENAL?

DIVINE ONE, I  
COME TO ASK  
YOU TO IMPEACH  
GENERAL JUNG-  
LU AS A FRIEND  
OF THE FOREIGNERS  
AND A **TRAITOR!**

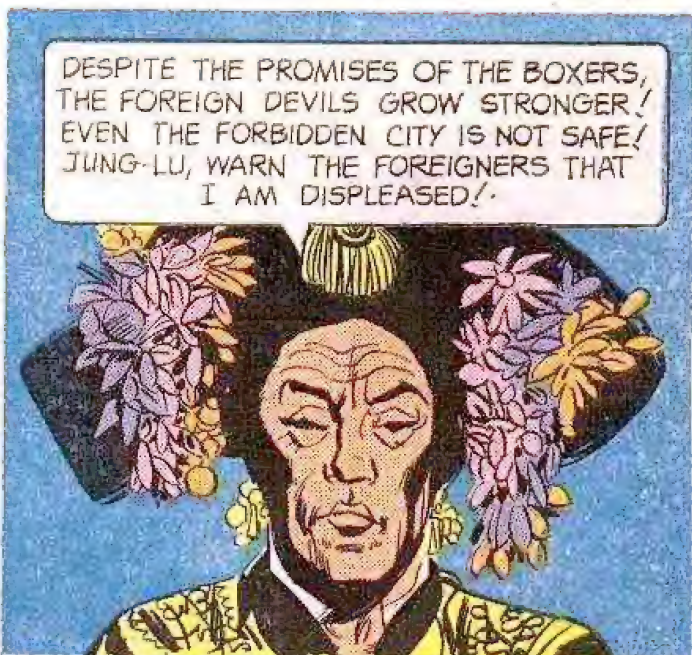


HE WILL NOT LET  
MY BOXERS USE HIS  
GUNS! HIS IMPERIAL  
TROOPS JUST WATCH  
AS MY BOXERS FIGHT!

BUT YOU  
PROMISED,  
WHEN I SPOKE  
AGAINST AN  
OFFICIAL WAR,  
THAT YOUR  
BOXERS COULD  
WIN *WITHOUT*  
HELP FROM THE  
IMPERIAL ARMY!



DESPITE THE PROMISES OF THE BOXERS,  
THE FOREIGN DEVILS GROW STRONGER!  
EVEN THE FORBIDDEN CITY IS NOT SAFE!  
JUNG-LU, WARN THE FOREIGNERS THAT  
I AM DISPLEASED!





LATER, GENERAL JUNG-LU'S MESSAGE IS READ...

"UNLESS YOUR TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN FROM TIENTSIN, THE CHINESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER IT AN ACT OF WAR AND WILL USE THE IMPERIAL TROOPS TO ATTACK THE LEGATIONS!"



THEN ALLIED TROOPS ARE AT TIENTSIN!

APPARENTLY! BUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME THEY MUST IMAGINE WE'RE DEAD! THEY'RE JUST SEVENTY MILES AWAY! IF ONLY WE COULD GET A MESSAGE THROUGH!



THAT NIGHT...

ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING, MAJOR? WE NEVER SEEM TO BE ALONE LONG ENOUGH TO TALK!

I MUST GO, BUT I WILL BE BACK! THEN, WE CAN TALK!

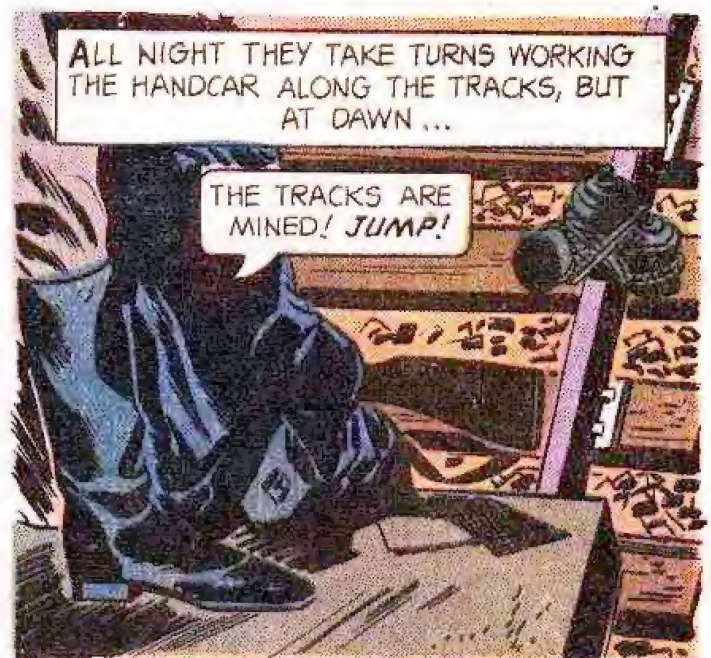


UNDER COVER OF A DIVERSION, MAJOR LEWIS AND THREE VOLUNTEERS SNEAK OUT AND REACH THE RAILYARD...

START PUSHING! TIENTSIN IS SEVENTY MILES AWAY!









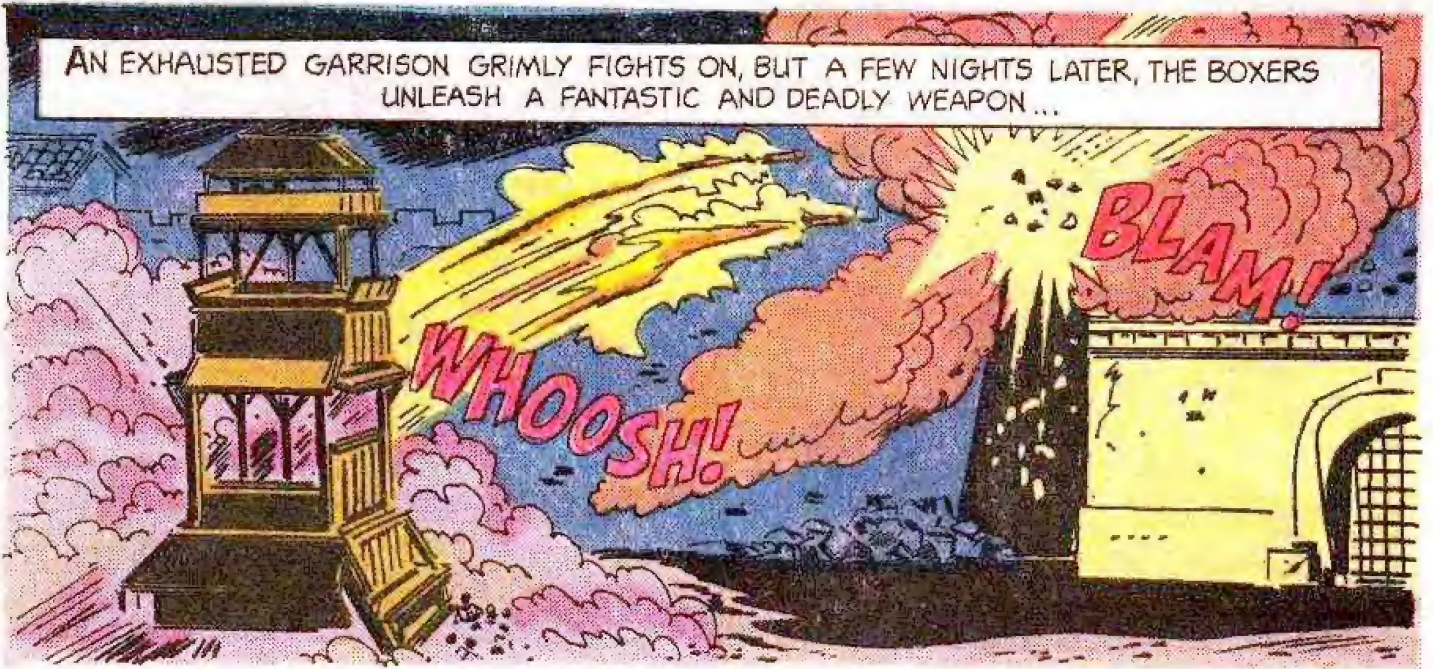








AN EXHAUSTED GARRISON GRIMLY FIGHTS ON, BUT A FEW NIGHTS LATER, THE BOXERS UNLEASH A FANTASTIC AND DEADLY WEAPON...



WE CAN'T STOP THAT ROCKET TOWER WITH RIFLES, FATHER! AND WE HAVEN'T ENOUGH MEN TO CHARGE IT!

GET ME SOME ROPE, LOTS OF BOTTLES AND ALL THE COAL OIL!

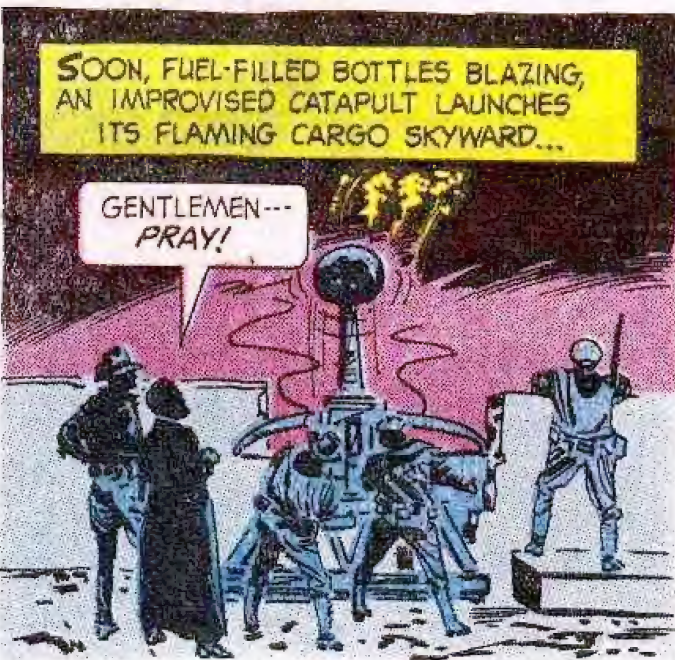


AND AS FATHER DE BEARN WORKS ON A COUNTER-WEAPON, THE ROCKETS FLASH AND FLAME WITH LETHAL FURY...



SOON, FUEL-FILLED BOTTLES BLAZING, AN IMPROVISED CATAPULT LAUNCHES ITS FLAMING CARGO SKYWARD...

GENTLEMEN---  
PRAY!



TOO LOW! THEY DIDN'T HIT THE TOWER!





BUT THE SPLASHING KEROSENE SPREADS THE FLAMES...

AND SUDDENLY...

**BHBOOM!**

STARVING, ONLY A HANDFUL OF SOLDIERS LEFT TO MAN THE DEFENSES, THE FIFTY-FIFTH DAY DAWNS GRIMLY...

IT'S OVER! THE EMPRESS HAS STOPPED TOYING WITH US! SHE'S ORDERED IN THE IMPERIAL TROOPS!

MAJOR, I'M AFRAID WE'LL FIND GENERAL JUNG-LU'S TRAINED TROOPS A DIFFERENT CUP OF TEA FROM THE BOXERS!

YES, SIR ARTHUR, BUT WE DID HOLD OUT LONGER THAN ANYONE EVER DREAMED!

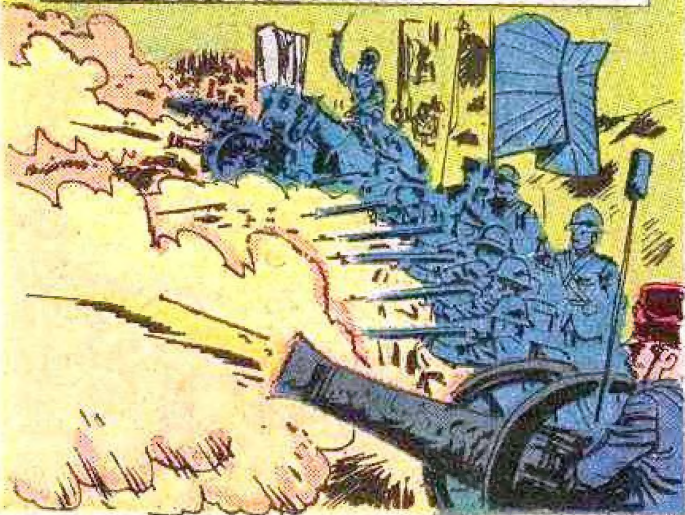
BUT SUDDENLY, THE IMPERIAL CAVALRY SWINGS ABOUT...

I SAY! THEY'RE PULLING AWAY!

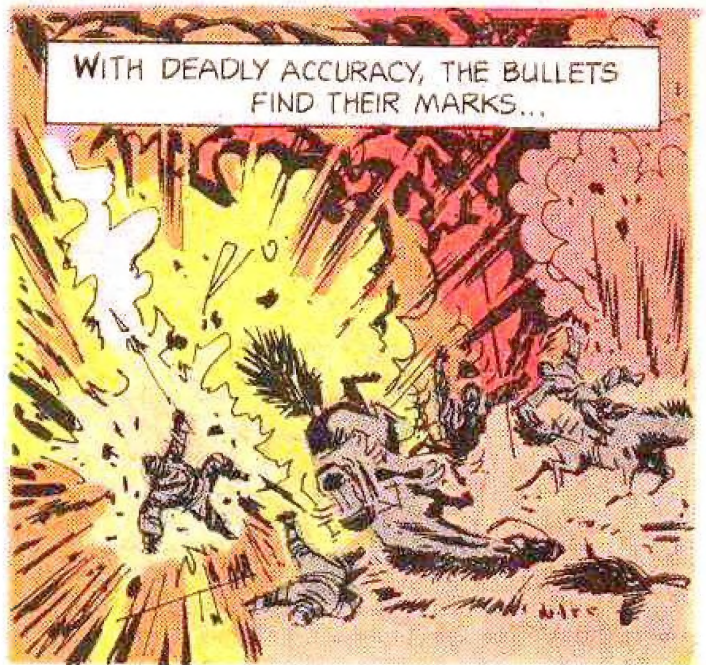
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!



BUT JUST OVER THE HORIZON THE CAUSE IS CLEAR, AS AN INTERNATIONAL RELIEF FORCE BEGINS FIRING...



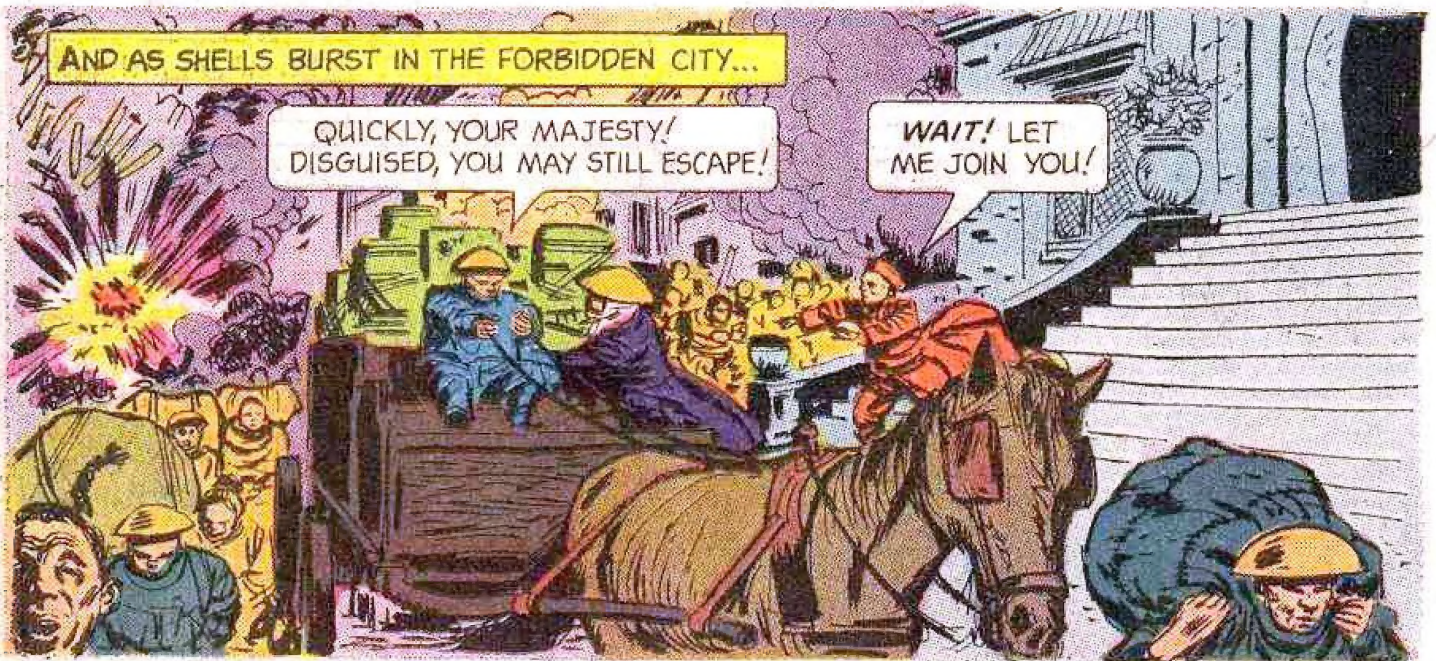
WITH DEADLY ACCURACY, THE BULLETS FIND THEIR MARKS...



AND AS SHELLS BURST IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY...

QUICKLY, YOUR MAJESTY!  
DISGUISED, YOU MAY STILL ESCAPE!

WAIT! LET  
ME JOIN YOU!



BUT BEFORE PRINCE TUAN CAN REACH  
HER, AN EXPLODING SHELL SENDS A  
WAVE OF PANICKING CHINESE OVER HIM...

OWW!



SOON...

I WANTED PEACE,  
WE HAVE A WAR!  
I EVEN THOUGHT  
ELEVEN NATIONS  
MIGHT LEARN TO  
GET ALONG!

FOR FIFTY-FIVE  
DAYS, THEY *DID*!  
FOR FIFTY-FIVE  
DAYS, SIR ARTHUR,  
*YOU* HELD US TO-  
GETHER AGAINST  
A COMMON FOE!  
MAYBE YOU  
STARTED SOME-  
THING! MAYBE  
PEOPLE *WILL*  
REMEMBER!







KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

# THE BOXER REBELLION

This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



In the 1890s, foreign powers were grabbing concessions from China. Russia took a railroad route, Germany seized a port.



By the year 1899, the Empress had encouraged the formation of village militia to be ready to halt further foreign aggression.



Soon a secret society, which called themselves The Righteous Honorary Fist, or Boxers, began taking over the village bands.



The Boxers' motto was, "Protect the country, destroy the foreigner!" They started by attacking all the Chinese Christians.



Soon the Boxers attacked missionaries and foreign troops had to be brought in to bring an end to the violent Boxer Rebellion.



# 55 DAYS AT PEKING

PIN-UP



CHARLTON HESTON

AVA GARDNER

DAVID NIVEN